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## Loomis to get fame on silver screen

By: *Martha Garcia, Loomis News Reporter*

If everything goes as planned, scenes from Loomis will appear on movie screens in the United States and Europe next year. That's because for several weeks Narrow Gate Productions has been filming "Something in the Clearing" in the area. Last Monday, the production company shot scenes at the Blue Goose Fruit Shed and St. Mark's Anglican Church.

Gary Hamner, nephew of Earl Hamner of "The Waltons" television series, is making the movie in his own back yard. A resident of Loomis for 20 years, Hamner is also planning to move his production company to Loomis from Folsom, where he owns Folsom Lake Chrysler Jeep Hundai.

"Something in the Clearing" is being made to "raise the awareness of missing and exploited children in the United States," Hamner said. He added, "Every movie that Narrow Gate does will always have a Christian message."

Hamner cites Department of Justice 1990 statistics that 2,200 children are reported missing in the United States every day.

"That means a child is reported missing or abducted every 40 seconds," said Sonnie Hamner, the movie's director/producer, screenplay writer and Gary's wife.

The Hamners also want to draw attention to new cases of missing children.

"We're working a deal to hook up with a missing children's foundation," Gary Hamner said.

When that occurs, the foundation will be promoted through the film's marketing campaign.

At a cost of \$624,000, "Something in the Clearing" is considered a moderate, low-budget film according to SAG standards, Gary Hamner explains. There is a cast and crew of about 50 people including 14 performers, plus a number of locals signed on as extras.

The identity of the movie's star is being kept secret until he joins the set in January. Until then, Gary Hamner would only say the actor, who will play the hero, is well known in Europe.

Even though she's playing one of the movie's villains, Connie Mockenhaupt of El Dorado Hills is enthusiastic about her involvement with the movie.

"It has a positive message, making people aware of the things that can happen to children," said Mockenhaupt, a teacher-turned-actress.

Last week's filming included several shots in the Blue Goose Produce store where customer Yolanda Corvello of Newcastle was recruited as an extra.



*Connie Mackenhaupt, playing "Aunt Marge," and Julie Anchor, playing "Lea," act in a scene of "Something in the Clearing," a movie about child abduction that was filmed at the Blue Goose produce fruit shed in Loomis. Photo by Karina Williams/Loomis News*

"It was out of the blue," Corvello said. "It wasn't planned - that's what made it fun."

Loomisite Lenard Florance, a volunteer with the South Placer Heritage Foundation which owns the fruit shed, also got his 15 minutes of fame as an extra when he played the produce store's cashier. He liked the idea of shooting the movie in Loomis.

"It's good for the community," he said.

Several extras also filled the pews at St. Mark's during filming inside the sanctuary.

On the crew side of the staff, boom operator Cory Lourick, of Sacramento, is working on his first movie with Narrow Gate Productions. He likes his job, but says like most people working in the industry, he'd "like to someday move up to directing or producing."

After a holiday break, shooting will resume in January and should be completed by the middle of the month, according to Gary Hamner. Following editing, the movie will have a four-wall, or theatrical, release. Gary Hamner said he is involved in making a deal for a 21-screen showing of the movie at 10 theatres in New York and 11 in Los Angeles.

"That would be the ultimate for us," he said.

Besides those cities he'll also arrange for a premiere night in an area theatre to which everyone involved with the film, including the extras, will be invited to attend.

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