

Shooting begins for 'Skokie'

by Carlene Sabath

A scene depicting the Skokie Chief of Police stopping a group of neo-Nazis as they drove to Skokie and issuing them with a writ to stop their protest was among the first footage to be shot this week as filming of the made-for-tv movie, *Skokie*, got underway.

The traffic scenes which were shot on Sheridan and Howard streets on Friday and Golf and Palatine roads on Monday, will be part of a CBS-TV 2½-hour docudrama based on the Skokie's efforts to prevent a Nazi demonstration during 1977-78. Other scenes, which will be filmed during the week, include actual shots of the American Civil Liberties Union building.

Sequences to be shot in Skokie during the month-long filming of the docudrama will be at a synagogue, two private homes, a restaurant and a hotel. Filming of the anti-Nazi demonstrations will take place outside of village hall on Nov. 24 and other scenes will be shot inside village hall, in the council chambers and the mayor's office, on Nov. 25 and 26. Locations for the homes, restaurant and hotel have not yet been chosen.

TEMPLE JUDEA MIZPAH at 6610 Niles Center Road will be the site for the synagogue scenes on Dec. 1, 2, and 3. Associate producer Tom DeWolfe explained, "The temple was chosen because it fulfilled certain technical and visual features needed such as the size of

the structure and the movability of inside furniture."

Temple staff said that Rabbie Karl Weiner and the board of directors of the congregation made the final decision to allow Titus Productions, the film-makers, to use the synagogue. It is their hope that the film will be done with class and dignity, a staff member said. Unfortunately, some of the excitement felt by the congregation over the film was dampened by the passing of the rabbi on Sunday, Nov. 16 after a long illness.

The script for "Skokie" was written by Ernest Kinoy, chief script writer for "Roots" and the movie will be directed by Herbert Wise. The story of how and why the Nazis were eventually stopped from marching in the village after a year-and-a-

half long legal battle will air on CBS sometime next spring.

THE FILM WILL star Danny Kaye as Max Feldman, a Holocaust survivor; John Rubinstein as Herb Lewison, a pseudonym for David Goldberger, ACLU attorney; Carl Reiner as Abbot Rosen; and Eli Wallach as Skokie Corporation Counsel Harvey Schwartz. Co-starring is Ed Landers as Mayor Albert Smith and Charles Levin as a rabbi. Maureen Stapleton will not appear in the film, a CBS representative said Monday.

Casting for extras took place at Centreast Auditorium on Monday, Nov. 10 and casting director for extras Debbie Rosen said between 200 and 300 people applied. "We thank the press for their help in getting such a good turn-out," Rosen said. The exact number of extras used in the film has not yet been determined since Rosen said, extras are used as needed.

It has been estimated that the village as a whole community can expect to receive a cash amount ranging anywhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Such expenses will be incurred to pay salaries for local crews and extras, to buy supplies and to pay hotel and restaurant fees.

DeWolfe indicated that Titus expects to spend approximately \$65,000 in hotel fees alone for the four-week stay. At the village's hotel-motel tax now, 3 percent of the gross receipts of the hotel stay alone would put \$19,000 into the municipal government pocket.



WOULD-BE EXTRAS wait their turn for a chance at being in the made-for-tv movie set in Skokie.

(Staff photo by Vicki Grayland)