

Bancroft, Jewison greet movie set visitors

Story and photos by Mark Holmes

"No, no, no!" cries Norman Jewison as he abruptly stops filming a chapel scene in "Agnes Of God" for the third time.

Jewison, the director of the major motion picture being filmed at the historic Rockwood Academy, explains to actresses dressed in traditional nuns' habits, that he wants them to look at the crucifix on the wall, not at the priest performing mass.

It's all in a day's work for cast and crew, but this glimpse behind the scenes had considerably more impact on several media visitors invited to tour the location Saturday. Publicist Nancy Willen led reporters, including the Free Press' Mark Holmes, and guest "movie buff" David Giammarco, 15, of RR 2 Acton, around the site.

While the film crews ready for the next round of shooting, two of the stars, Anne Bancroft and Meg Tilly, smile at each other and practise kneeling gracefully at the mock altar.

Once again, Jewison calls for quiet. A bell rings throughout the site, traffic outside is stopped, and then, with a click of the take board, silence falls and the camera rolls.

Nuns proceed to the altar, accepting the communion host from the priest and then file to the back of the chapel and out of the camera's rangem.

After at least four tries, Jewison is finally satisfied. With a grin, he says, "that's a take."

Jewison, whose fame stems from directing and producing such blockbuster movies as "Ice Man" and "Fiddler On the Roof," said the quality of the writing and the story itself are the biggest reasons he decided to direct "Agnes Of God," which will be released by Columbia Pictures in October, 1985.

The Canadian-born director said he's been interested in "Agnes" since he first saw the



Meg Tilly, a rising young movie star who appeared in "The Big Chill" is playing the title role in "Agnes of God", the major motion picture being filmed at the Academy. The film will be released by Columbia Pictures next October.

production four years ago when it hit Broadway stages with Lee Remick in the lead.

Written by John Pielmeir, "Agnes Of God" is the story of a psychologically troubled nun with an illegitimate child. Played by Meg Tilly, best-known for her starring role in "The Big Chill," Agnes receives help from psychologist Martha Livingstone played by Jane Fonda.

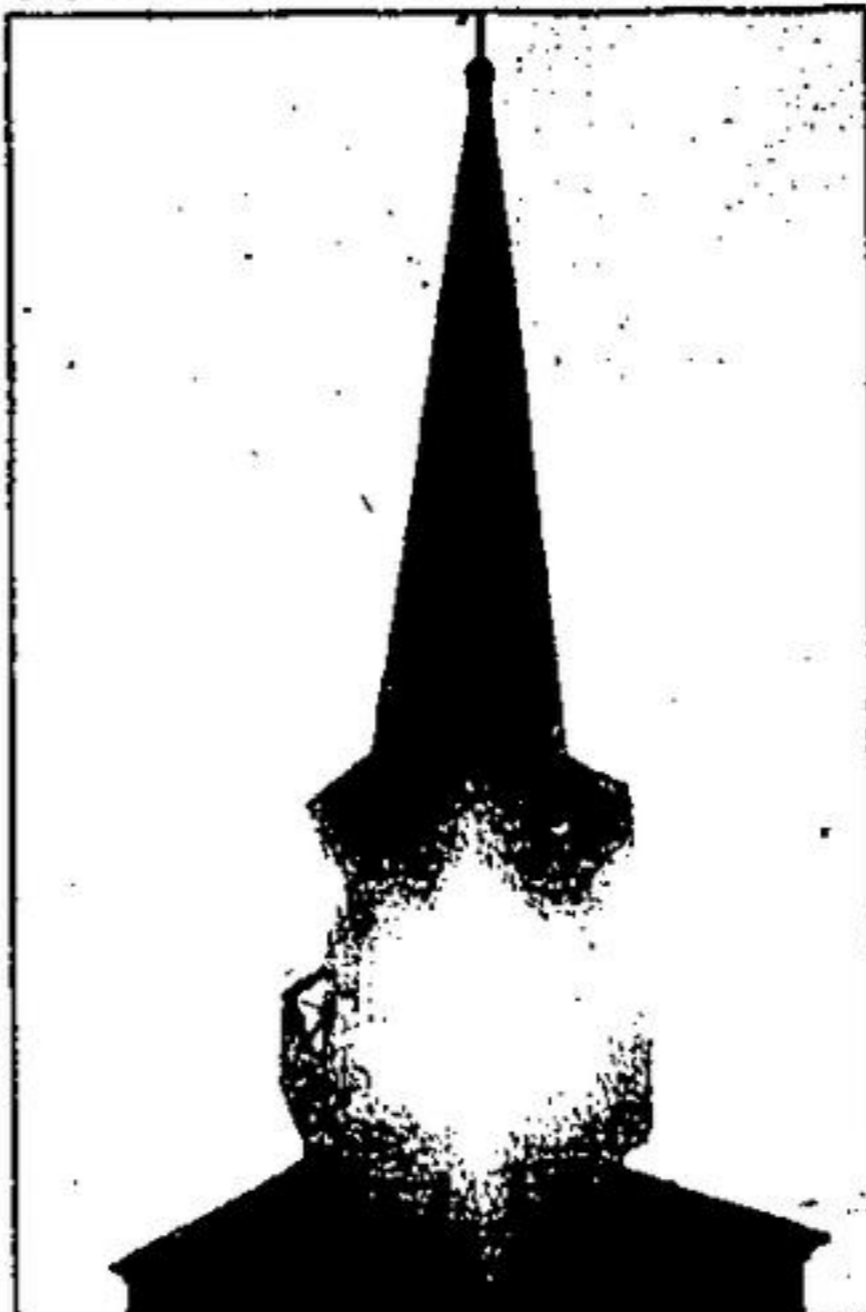
Anne Bancroft, who rose to fame with such 1960s films as "The Miracle Worker," "The Graduate" and recent accomplishments like "To Be Or Not to Be" and "Garbo Talks", plays Mother Superior Miriam Ruth.

"Right now," Jewison said, "the weather is the biggest factor in how fast and when the filming takes place. When the sun is out for the day everyone takes advantage of the stable light. When it rains, we're just as busy."

"When you've got six hours of filming that ends up as six minutes on the movie screen, you can't have drastic changes in the weather," he said.

With a final remark about how it would have been impossible to make this movie in Canada 10 years ago, Jewison left his visitors in the company of Ken Adam, the film's production designer.

Adam, whose extensive work on the popular James Bond films brought him



A massive bell tower was added to the back of the Rockwood Academy. Set designer Ken Adam remarked that more than \$400,000 has been spent on set construction so far, the work completed at a brisk pace.

instant recognition in the industry, is the man responsible for making the Academy look like an authentic Quebec convent.

Adam claimed the price tag for set construction at the Academy has topped \$400,000. If it wasn't for the enormous potential of the film, he wouldn't have attempted the undertaking.

"I've never had to complete a set in so short a time," Adam said. "We had only five weeks to complete it before the filming started."

The Academy has undergone a complete facelift since Adam took over. New windows and tin were added to the roof, extensive



Ken Adam, the man responsible for the transformation of the Academy into a Quebec convent, discusses a scene with actress Anne Bancroft while a wardrobe person makes a few last-minute adjustments to the actress' costume.

yard work has been done to include gardens and paths, stone work and metal lattice have given height and length to the stone walls surrounding the property and, to complete the convent, a massive bell tower has been added.

"Every detail of a Quebec nunnery has been added to the building," Adam said. "The movie is set in present-day Quebec, but we wanted to give the convent an aged look."

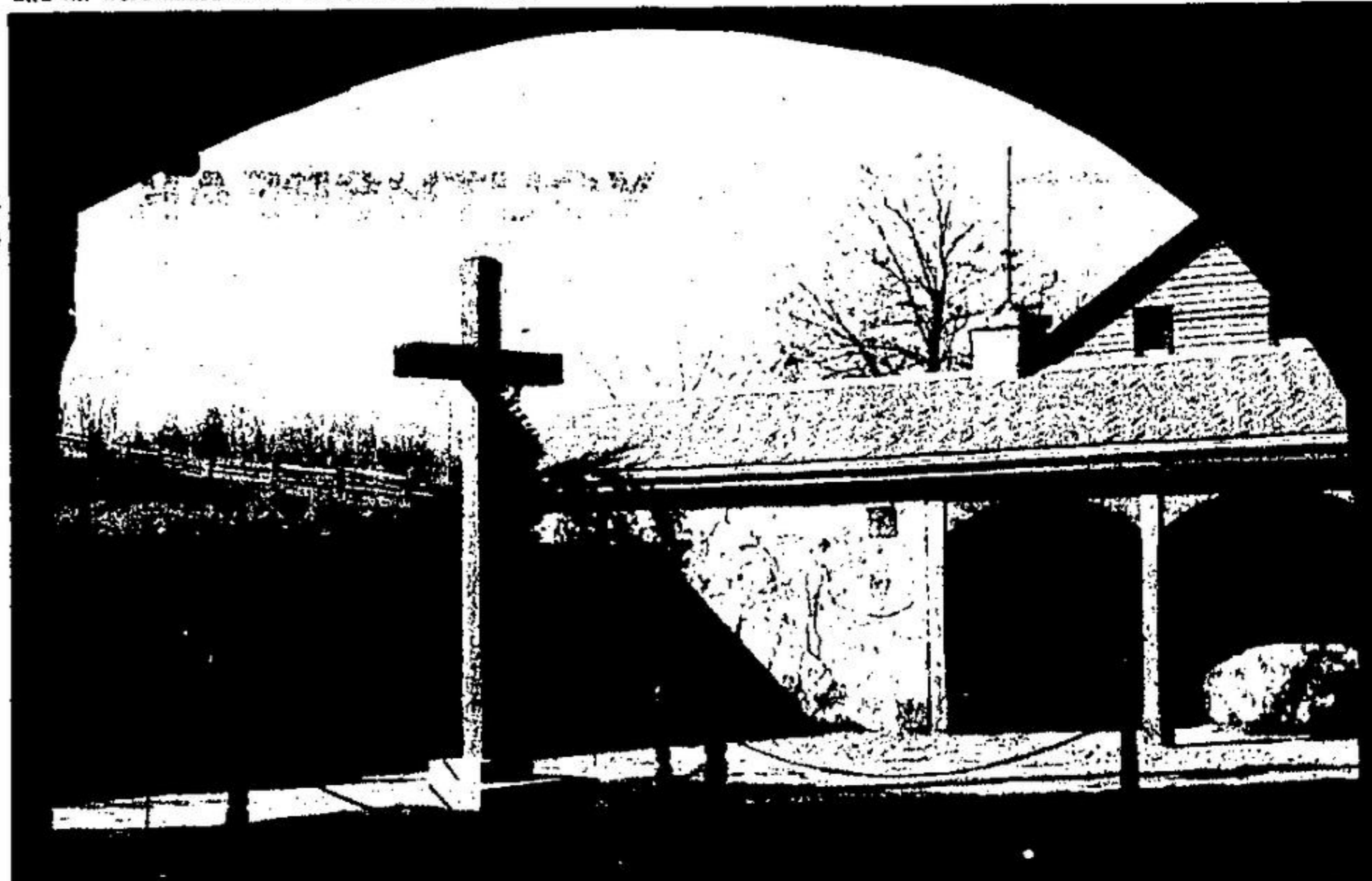
Adam also pointed out that to build a set like the one in Rockwood would have cost considerably more.

"It's an intimate story," said Adam, "quite different than the epics I've worked on, and I have to admit I've really looked forward to working on it with Norman Jewison. It should be an incredible film."

Publicist Willen said by the end of December or early January, the Rockwood set will be turned back over to its owners.



In a scene from "Agnes of God", a priest performs mass with some of the nuns. Reporters got a behind-the-scenes tour of the set Saturday.



The courtyard at the Academy has undergone a complete transition to become part of a Quebec nunnery.

IF YOU DON'T SEE IT, ASK!



Mary McKenzie (left) and Anne Slipper drew a lot of attention at the IODE bazaar with their colorful hand-made doll display, featuring dolls and doll clothes that were hard to resist for any serious Christmas shopper.

IODE prizewinners

Prize winners at the Lakeside Chapter of the IODE's annual bazaar Saturday are as follows:

QUILT William Bradshaw, Toronto, AFGHAN Jan Stanford, Barrie; BATH WRAPS Debra Murly, Guelph; CHRISTMAS CENTRE PIECE Connie Banks, Acton; GROCERIES Elsie Haliday and Mabel Prostebly.

Penny table winners were as follows: GROCERIES Anne Slipper, C. Houston, M. McDonough, Betty Ann Elliot, H. Helwing; COOKIE JAR S. Billington; CLOCK Grace Hospes; ROCKING CHAIR Fran Goulton; BABY QUILT Shirley Hunter;

TEA COSY C. Houston; PARFAIT GLASSES Deb Frizzell; TABLE CLOTH R. Dawkins; PURSE AND DOLL Dorothy Jordan; SERVIETTES Sophie Dyc; MONKEY Kara; HAIRCUT Julia Bowen; TRAY B. Oaks; CUTTING BOARD Paul Coker; SPICES L. Knoepf; SHAMPOO AND SET Jack Ridley; POT HOLDER AND MEASURING CUPS P. Angel; SHOE BAG J. Mastalerz; BIRD CAGE Chris Harding; RUG HOOKING Jane Day; PLATE Helen Jocque; SOAP Ray Brown; CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT Sherry Waterworth; GLASS BOWL Irene Terry.

IODE members thank everyone who helped make the bazaar a success.



Few events jam as many people into the Acton Legion hall as the annual IODE bazaar. Saturday was no different, hundreds of bargain hunters crowding the tables laden with baked goods, rummage sale items, handicrafts, plants and draws. If you still had time to spare after making the rounds, there was a spot nearby to sit and enjoy tea.



There certainly were enough people around, but 20-month old Michelle Dyc knew where she wanted to be at Saturday's IODE bazaar in the Legion hall. She perched in the lap of grandmother Helen Jocque, who was minding a draw table that featured the hand-made "granny" doll in the foreground.

