

## Hollywood discovers Oregon coast town

ASTORIA (AP) — This town is stage struck — but it's movie money, not glamour, that has the folks dazzled.

Film crews here this week wrapped up shooting *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III* and *Free Willy* and are headed back to Los Angeles.

But state officials say yet another movie deal may be in the works.

Karen Runkel, project manager with the Oregon Film and Video Division, said Thursday that a major independent film company is interested in using the state's new sound stages at North Tongue Point to shoot a drama.

Scouts will be checking out locations once casting is completed, Runkel said. If Astoria is chosen, the film would be shot this fall.

"I hope to hear by the end of the week," Runkel said.

Golden Harvest Films Inc., the makers of the third Turtle movie, invested about \$350,000 into building sound stages in Hangar 3 at North Tongue Point.

The Oregon Division of State Lands, owner of the hangar, wants to continue leasing the building to other film makers for the rest of the year and into 1993.

Jim Maxwell, chairman of The Committee to Promote Astoria, is proposing his organization spend \$2,000 for an ad in the Hollywood Reporter to plug the city and the sound stages.

"We have the dance hall. We need someone to come to the party," Maxwell said.

Maxwell discussed the idea Wednesday with City Manager Bob DeLong, other city officials and local Chamber of Commerce director Lynn Wallace.

"I think it's a good idea," DeLong said. "The thinking is, with the sound stage that we have now, there really is a rationale and business reason behind getting a little bit of exposure in the film community."

The city also is getting free exposure from crews that enjoyed their stay in Oregon.

"When we go back home and they ask us how it was, all we

would be able to answer is great, and just mention the convenience, beauty of the landscape, the hospitality of the people and the cooperation of the mayor and city officials," said Michael Singer, spokesman for *Free Willy*.

*Free Willy*, a Warner Bros. picture about a street kid who rescues a killer whale from the owners of an amusement park, is tentatively due for release in the spring of 1993.

*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III*, in which the reptilian foursome go back to ancient Japan to rescue their friend April O'Neil, is due for release in late March 1993.

Depending on its success, said producer Tom Gray of Golden Harvest Films Inc., the turtles may return to Astoria for *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles IV*. The set for the turtles' subway den is waiting in storage at Hangar 3.



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The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest.

The contest is open to everyone, whether previously published or not, and is free. The deadline for entry is Sept. 30, 1992.

Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send one original poem, any subject any style, to the National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronbridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-ZK, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

The poem should be no more than 20 lines and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by Sept. 30. A new contest opens Oct. 1. For details, call 410-356-2000.