

## AREA NEWS

# Hollywood comes to Howard City

*Former trooper helps film crew re-enact crime*

By JOSEPH VESELENAK  
Daily News staff writer

**HOWARD CITY** — Page Neve is now retired from the Michigan State Police, but he was called back into duty Friday to help re-enact a 1993 incident in which he and his partner could have been killed.

The incident, which involved a robbery in Big Rapids and a high speed chase and shootout on US-131, was re-created in the Howard City area Friday by a film crew from California and a group of actors.

The scenes will be used on an upcoming episode of the television series "Real Stories of the Highway Patrol."

The episode will portray a June 20, 1993, incident in which 18-year-old Chad Lee Waltz and Dawn Roberts — then 16 — drove from Traverse City to Mecosta County

where they robbed a party store. The two then took police on a high-speed chase south on US-131 and eventually engaged in a shootout with Lakeview troopers Neve and Ed Doyle.

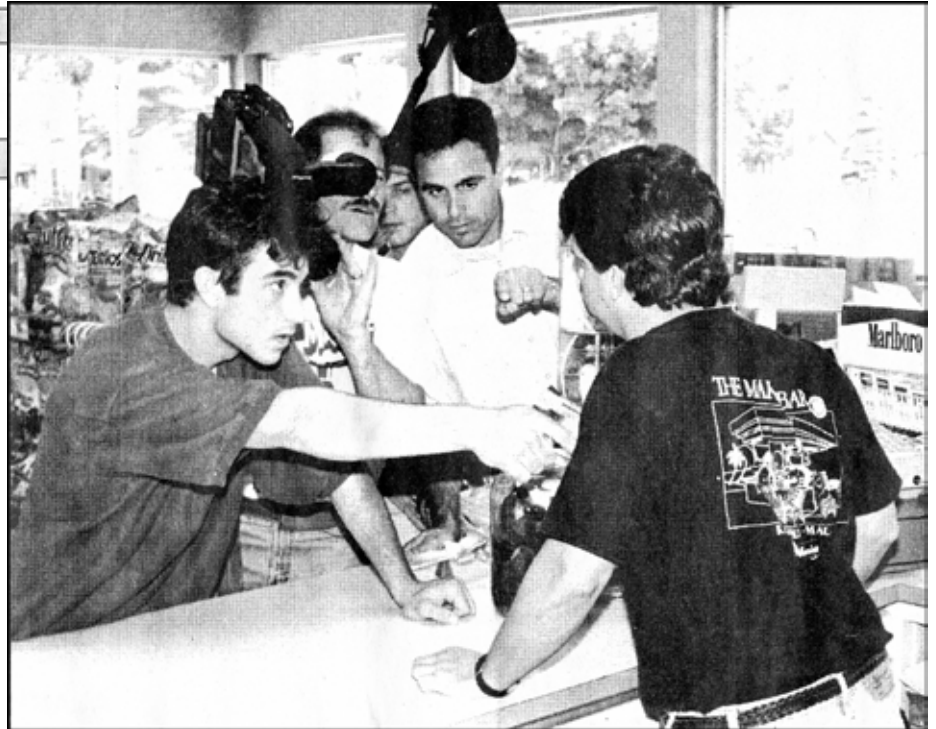
Neve related his story as he watched the film crew and actors re-enact the robbery scene at the J&H Mobile Station on M-82 outside of Howard City.

"It was just north of M-46 (on US-131) and we got in front of them," he said. "They rammed us three times from behind and on the third time we went into the meridian.

"After we stopped, he (Waltz) shot the back passenger window of our car out. We bailed out and returned fire. I wasn't scared, I was angry. As soon as they fired, I said, 'Let's get them.'"

The firefight, which lasted about 5 to 10 seconds, resulted in Doyle being shot in the ankle and Waltz and Roberts receiving wounds.

Waltz then drove from the scene in his car with three blown-out tires. A short distance later, near the M-82 exit, he shot himself dead. Neve stayed behind with the wounded



Daily News/Joseph Veselenak

Actor Erik Baker points a gun at actor Kevin Kramis during a robbery re-enactment that was filmed at J&H Mobile Station in Howard City Friday. The robbery re-enactment will be

part of an upcoming episode of television's "Real Stories of the Highway Patrol." Pictured in the middle, from left, are cameraman Bob Bishop and producer Craig Piligian.

## Film Scene

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Doyle.

"That was the first time I was in a firefight like that," said Neve, who retired in January after 23 years with the State Police. "That's what made me retire. I decided to get out in one piece."

Neve and Doyle each received the Michigan State Police Bravery Award and the Medal of Honor from the Michigan State Police Chiefs.

The actual robbery took place at the Pit Stop Party Store in Mecosta County. The film crew chose the Howard City area to re-enact the scenes because the area is close to the scene of the shooting.

The crew filmed the shooting scene at a location on Kendaville Road on Friday afternoon. Neve and Doyle both participated in the filming.

A morning shoot had the camera crews and actors

at a Howard City residence where they re-enacted a gathering of runaways at a house in Traverse City. It was at the Traverse City house where Waltz and Roberts decided to leave with a car.

"There was a lot of good action and police work involved," said Craig Piligian, a senior producer with the Agoura Hills, California-based Leap Off Productions. "The police did a really good job in an intense situation and we like to show that."

The production company recently inquired with the Michigan State Police headquarters in Lansing about incidents that would make interesting episodes for the program.

State Police officials in Lansing submitted five incidents and the June 20 incident was chosen along with two separate incidents that occurred in the Traverse City area.