

124 Actor down to 38 cents gets called to stardom



MATT CRAVENN'S GOT A LOT TO LAUGH ABOUT
His first movie audition landed him a feature role

By JACK MILLER
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Matt Cravenn's bankroll was down to the 38 cents when he was called from his bartender's job at the Sutton Place Hotel Sunday to learn that his first movie audition had landed him the featured role of Hardware in the Cinepix film Summer Camp, which starts shooting in Haliburton Aug. 10.

"It's the old Cinderella story," the 21-year-old Niagara Falls native beamed yesterday, thinking of the \$700 a week the work will pay him for the six-week shoot.

Two years ago he decided he wanted to make acting his career. So he enrolled in the first class of the new Weist-Barron school on Bay St. and borrowed a friend's car to commute to classes every day.

When he completed the course this February, the schools' two organizers, Agota Gabor and Margo Lane, encouraged him to stay with his dream. He found work first as a waiter at The Keg Mansion and later as a bartender at Sutton Place, to cover his schooling and living expenses. But it wasn't easy.

Then the school opened its own talent casting service last Monday, got its first major call from the Summer Camp producers Wednesday, sent Cravenn and four others to auditions Thursday, and Matt got his magic call Sunday.

"I had just paid off the last of my bank loans, had only that 38 cents to my name, and was wondering what was ahead, when the phone rang," he laughed.