

LAURA'S WAY

- Last month was a special time for Darlene and Roger May of Ravenna. Roger and their granddaughter, Hannah Kendrick of Michigan, had the opportunity to be included as "extras" at the taping of an episode of the "Drew Carey Show," which will air at 9 p.m. on Sept. 29.

Darlene and Roger's daughter, Tina Kerr, owns her own company, On Location Casting. She was in Cleveland casting extras for the television show. Darlene decided to help Tina with paperwork, rather than being included as an extra.

- Tina was in charge of finding more than 14,000 extras who were willing to volunteer their time to be part of the show, along with 400 paid extras.

- Although Tina and her family moved to Tacoma, Wash., when she was 14, she didn't have any trouble getting in touch with her old friends from her school days in Windham. Helping out behind the scenes as assistants during the four days of filming were former Windham residents, Christine Lutz Poole of Middlefield, Maurina Hankins Wagner of Tallmadge and Melissa Garner Pozsgai of Kent.

Along with her friends, Tina managed to let some of mom's friends participate. Among them were 4-H volunteers Terry Teach and Jennifer Border, both of Mogadore, Fran, Larry and David Pruchenski of Rootstown, and school friend Bonnie Starkey Day and her husband, Jack, of Cuyahoga Falls.

- When Tina was 21, she was hired as an assistant to a woman who did casting work in Seattle, Wash. "I worked for one year doing "extras" casting for television and feature films," Tina said. "After a year, I decided I was a little more ambitious than that. I told her that I wanted to be partners."

She gave the company a name and soon realized this was the career she wanted. That was 10 years ago. Today she owns the company and lives in Los Angeles. She isn't home much because most of her jobs send her on location all over the world.

- Tina got her chance to cast for the "Drew Carey Show" after working with Lou Fusaro, production manager of the show in another film, "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," and also doing the opening scene for the "Drew Carey Show" when they were here two years ago. "He said that I had done a good job on the opening scene and that he wanted me back to do the episode," Tina said.

Among Tina's movie credits are "Deep Blue Sea," (which is playing at theaters now), "Three Kings" and "Any Given Sunday" (which haven't been released yet), "Water boy," "Titanic," "Varsity Blues," "Sleepless in Seattle," "Free Willy II," "Holy Matrimony," with Leonard Nimoy, "Disclosure," with Demi Moore and Michael Douglas, "Assassins," with Sylvester Stallone, and "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls," with Jim Carey.



**LAURA
NETHKEN**