

DeNiro Visits Greenvale

By Joe Scotchie

A Greenvale clothing store, Victor Talbot's Formals of New York, saw one of its regular business days receive an unexpected, but not unwelcome interruption last Monday when Universal Studios used the store to shoot scenes from its upcoming film, *Meet the Parents*.

The comedy, which stars Robert DeNiro and Ben Stiller, features the classic plot where Mr. DeNiro plays the strict father who is not yet convinced Mr. Stiller would make the right husband for his daughter.

Universal shot three scenes in the store. The company used a house in Brookville to serve as Mr. DeNiro's movie residence, so a talent scout went on the lookout in the area for a clothing store that could be used in the film. One day, Victor Talbot, the store's proprietor, noticed a man doing measuring work and video-taping the interior of his store, which is located on 47 Glen Cove Rd.

He soon received a call from a Universal Studio lawyer and a date to do filming inside the store was made. In addition to the location, Universal chose Victor Talbot's because, according to Mr. Talbot, it fit the description of an upscale, "English type" clothing showroom needed for the film.

The day's filming took place

Monday, Dec. 6, from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mr. Talbot remembered the long day as an "absolutely wonderful" experience for him and the business in general. He recalled Universal employees quickly transforming his establishment with all the necessary movie set props.

Mr. Stiller arrived early in the morning and began reading over his lines. At around 9 a.m., Mr. DeNiro made his appearance. Mr. Talbot described the Academy Award winning actor as being "very regal looking" along with being quiet and nonassuming. Emerging from his dressing room, Mr. DeNiro immediately "went into his character" and the filming began. The three scenes involved dialogues between Mr. DeNiro and Mr. Stiller, with the former playing the demanding father and the latter, the earnest suitor.

"He was reserved, a classy man, very quiet," Mr. Talbot said of the movie's star, adding that when the day was done, Mr. DeNiro agreed to be in a photo with Mr. Talbot's family. In the confusion, Mr. Talbot had forgotten his camera. So, Mr. DeNiro barked out "Phil!" (the name of one of his assistants) and right away, no less than six people on the set came running to Mr. DeNiro, each with a camera in hand. Mr. Talbot got his photo.