KIRK DOUGLAS takes advantage of a break in the shooting to catch up on Hollywood news. In the movie Douglas plays role of an architect who chooses to apply design freedom in modern homes rather than develop industrial communities.

ERNIE KOVACS, complete with famous cigar, chats with Ross Ramussen, Weyerhaeuser product supervisor for the Western region-southern district. In the film, Kovacs is the Hollywood writer for whom the house is being built.

PHOTO REPORT:

In famous Bel Air estates at Los Angeles, home of the great names of the movie industry, spectacular homes are almost commonplace. But a house now being completed has been causing plenty of excitement . . . and making movie history at the same time.

The reason: the house plays a major role in a new Columbia motion picture, "Strangers When We Meet", and shares star billing with Kirk Douglas, Kim Novak, Ernie Kovacs, and Barbara Rush . . . and Weyerhaeuser.

The story of "Strangers When We Meet" revolves around the design and construction of the home for a Hollywood writer (played by Ernie Kovacs). Since the home is so important, Producer-director Richard Quine decided to undertake something never before attempted in Hollywood . . . actually build the home as the shooting took place. Usual Hollywood procedure is to construct flimsy sets and shoot the film in the studio.

This decision will add realism to the completed picture . . . but it also added a mass of extra work for the producer. Columbia Art Directors Ross Bellah and Carl Anderson worked three months designing a house to fit the character of the writer Ernie Kovacs will portray. Then the home design was turned over to the nationally recognized architectural firm of Victor Gruen Associates for engineering.

Weyerhaeuser 4-Square lumber and plywood, together with Rilco laminated beams, were specified throughout the all-wood home. There were many good reasons for selecting wood. The designers wanted the distinctive appearance . . . plus the durability and strength . . . that only wood offers. And, because of a unique problem in building the house, wood's easy workability assumed major importance.

This was because the construction schedule was geared to the film's shooting schedule. In order to film the sequences at the right time, some portions of the home had to be completed almost overnight.

Using Weyerhaeuser precision manufactured lumber products, the crew of builder Kenneth B. Wamsley, Santa Monica, has been able to meet all deadlines.

Wood provided the means for overcoming another problem, too . . . making the 3800 sq. ft. home warm and friendly in spite of its size. This was overcome by extensive use of luxurious Weyerhaeuser red cedar paneling which adds beautiful contrast to the light cream-colored tones of the exposed Douglas Fir posts, beams, and ceiling.

Finally, the exterior was sided with natural-finish Weyerhaeuser vertical grain red cedar siding which harmonizes perfectly with the natural surroundings of the home.

Both the film and the house are scheduled for completion this month. The movie will be premiered early in July and during the next year millions of movie-goers will see . . . in CinemaScope and color . . . the actual construction of the striking home. (A special photo-tour of the completed home will be featured in a forthcoming issue of Weyerhaeuser News.)
STRIKING MOVIE HOME perches half-way up a 190-foot steep hillside lot with a spectacular view down a canyon to the Pacific Ocean. For maximum strength, rigidity and resistance to wind, the design called for kiln-dried structural lumber throughout and diagonal wood sheathing on certain walls.

Everyone who sees the picture will be reminded of the beauty and individuality possible only in a home constructed of wood. And the heavy schedule of publicity will stimulate further interest in the all-wood house and create a desire for wood construction.

The home-conscious public will hear about the house in other ways, too. While Columbia's cameramen were making the film, another group of cameramen was grinding away over their shoulders, shooting the back-stage action of making a motion picture, and recording construction progress in full detail. These photographers were making two additional films. One is a special movie which will be a feature attraction at more than 20 Home Shows in the United States and Canada, and is expected to play to 3,600,000 people.

The other film... again in full color... is being produced by Weyerhaeuser and will be available for showing to Weyerhaeuser dealers, builders, architects and service organizations throughout the nation.

Hollywood insiders are predicting "Strangers When We Meet" may be Columbia's outstanding motion picture of 1960. Of course, a house can't win an "Oscar" but its performance... is Columbia's film, the Home Show film, and Weyerhaeuser's film should win it a resounding vote of thanks from the lumber industry. You can't leave the movie without being impressed with wood's starring role in modern architecture. And this impression should make itself felt in the cash registers of lumberyards across the nation.

YOU'LL BE SEEING this photo often in coming months. It's one of the official studio publicity photos for the movie. Advance publicity, plus the movie itself, will do a lot to stimulate desire for homes built of wood.
HOMESITE is beehive of activity as building crews rush to complete portion necessary for day's shooting. Matching construction schedule with shooting schedule complicated the builders' job.

ROOF DECKING goes on as house nears completion. Underside of this 3-inch thick Douglas fir backing becomes the exposed structural ceiling of the post and beam home. Framework is of laminated Rilco beams and kiln-dried Weyerhaeuser 4-Square dimension lumber.

UNIQUE "EAGLES NEST" adds distinctive touch to the contemporary, multi-winged, multi-level home. Designers spared no effort to make the picture house literally a "dream home." The 3,800 sq. ft. of living space includes 3 bedrooms, large living room, dining room, kitchen, den and a maid's quarters. The completed home is valued at $250,000 with lot and swimming pool.

NOT ONLY is the dramatic home all wood, it also is literally of all Weyerhaeuser 4-Square construction including siding, paneling, roof decking, subflooring and plywood. This is a piece of the 5x6 Douglas fir center-matched material which becomes the combined exposed ceiling and roof decking.

NOBODY . . . from kids to corporation presidents . . . can resist the temptation to climb the scaffolding of a new house. Here Miss Novak proves she's no exception . . . even though it's almost 70 feet from the boards she is on to the street below!