



KEN LUBAS / Los Angeles Times

Gary Glaser and, below, Justiceville before the encampment was bulldozed by the city.

Skid Row Movie Maker Has Hit the Skids Himself

By STEVE HARVEY, Times Staff Writer

When Gary Glaser began planning a documentary on the homeless, he didn't suspect that he would soon find himself out of work, his car repossessed, his telephone service about to be cut off and many of his belongings in the pawn shop.

"Now I know how easy it is to fall once you're on the skids," Glaser, 34, said the other day in his small bachelor apartment in Hollywood.

Nevertheless, using "the crased tapes of some old (Marion) Brando movies," the former television cameraman went ahead and shot six hours of footage on Justiceville, a downtown collection of makeshift dwellings for the homeless that was later dismantled by the city.

Glaser showed a rough 30-minute clip at a recent American Civil Liberties Union gathering and actress Eileen Brennan volunteered to narrate it. "She's committed to doing it," said Paul Burditch, Brennan's publicist.

But the question is whether she will have anything to narrate. The project is stalled.

Glaser, who estimates that he has invested \$5,000 of his (and friends') money, lacks the funds to get his equipment out of hock and to cut and assemble the footage into a half-hour film.

Glaser had been a cameraman at KTLA (Channel 5) for six years when he was laid off this year. Although he still works there occasionally along with other free-lance jobs, he said he has been



unable to find full-time employment.

"I'm having trouble getting around (without the car)," said the somewhat gaunt Glaser, who has lost 10 pounds over the last six months. "My landlord's been patient, but I may not be able to stay here much longer. And if the phone service goes, that'll be bad because a lot of the homeless still call me collect."

"Of course, being laid off allowed me the time to go down to Justiceville and shoot the film," Glaser said. "It was a life-changing kind of situation for

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