



Bill Cobbs, sitting in the rocking chair, looks on while students from The Colorado Film School located in Denver adjust the boom microphone for their falling character. The students are producing and directing a short film about Purgatory and are filming just south of the Prowers and Baca County Line.

Photo by Tracy Grodinez

Film crew sets up shop

Ledger Staff Report

LAMAR—When Daniel Ford and his fellow students at the Colorado Film School in Denver were scouting for locations to film a scene depicting Purgatory, they settled on an area south of Lamar.

The young filmmaker said he and his fellow students scouted multiple areas for the perfect location before finding what they feel is the optimal background for the production. Originally the short was to be filmed in the Colorado Springs area, but moved to the northern Baca County site because of the lack of trees, lines and structures in the shot.

The short film being produced by Ford centers around a man stuck in Purgatory, trying to figure out a way into heaven. The star of the film, Bill Cobbs, plays a character who resides in Purgatory and answers questions for the man seeking entry into heaven.

The 75 year old Cobbs has appeared in several motion pictures and television programs dating back to the mid-1970s. Credits include "The Color of Money," "The Hudsucker Proxy," "That Thing You Do," and "Night at

the Museum."

The short film is being shot as a class project. It is directed by Nate Schneider, a fellow film school student. The total length of the film is expected to be approximately seven minutes.

Production plans included filming for three days on land south of Two Buttes owned by Greg Rolls. The preproduction for the project took three months, with post production expected to take another three to four months. Cobbs was on scene for two days.

The production crew totals 28 students. Lodging for the film crew was provided by Lamar Community College who allowed the novice filmmakers to stay in the Wellness Center during the shoot.

When asked what attracted him to this story Cobbs responded, "It was a nice story and I really liked it. It has good metaphors."

Cobbs said he spoke with Ford regarding the film and became interested because of the nature of both the project and the material. He said he has lent his acting talent and pro-

Film *Continued from Page A1*

duction abilities to other student projects, including most recently to a middle school production.

Doug Ford, Daniel Ford's father, said Cobbs was first exposed to the project through his agent. "His manager read the story and liked it, thought Bill would like it too and sent it over to him," Doug Ford said.

Cobbs has agreed to donate his salary from the filming back to the film school, thereby allowing more students and resources to ultimately be utilized for the project.

Upcoming projects for Cobbs include a film releasing in the fall or winter called "Get Low" starring Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, and Bill Murray. The film is how we miss perceive one another. Duvall plays a man who is a bit of a hermit going on 40 years. No one really knows anything about Duvall's character except for his best friend, played by Cobb.

Daniel Ford said he "plans not only to use this film for his class project, but to also enter into festivals around the state for sure."



Photo by Tracy Grodinez

Film crew members prepare to shoot a scene Wednesday morning just south of Two Buttes.

See **FILM** on Page A5