

Up the Creek

Cinema Verite

Lights, camera, action..

'Battlefield' is Expected to Mean \$10 Million in Colorado

Those who like to imagine a great city might be pleased to learn that, some time after the year 3000 AD, Denver is destined to become the capital of the world. But the next millenium truly looks a mess, what with ecological devastation and the demise of most of us humans as we fall under the brutal domination of the evil Psychlos, intergalactic warlords.

Take heart, for this is the stuff of Hollywood dreams. The pop seller, *Battlefield Earth*, by L. Ron Hubbard, is scheduled to be filmed in Colorado as not one, but two full-length feature films.

Producer William Immerman of L.A.-based Salem Productions and Director Ken Annakin (credited with directing *The Longest Day*, *Battle of the Bulge*, *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*) were in town last week to begin a talent hunt for the two leads, described as a girl between the ages of 16 and 21 and a boy between 18 and 22, both excellent at horseback riding.

Over 500 prospectives auditioned for the two roles, according to

Steven Vannoy, head of Vannoy Talent Agency, and many more are expected to return for forthcoming cattle calls in the hopes of becoming the next Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher.

Immerman and Annakin visited a number of sites for location shooting, scheduled to commence next January. The G&W Sugar Mill in Longmont, a strip mine in Climax, Cripple Creek, the NORAD facilities and the Denver Public Library are under consideration. (Fortunately, the DPL is available on Thursdays and Sundays).

The economic impact to the state, according to Immerman, based on the formula that roughly half of a production's budget is spent in the area, could run as high as \$10 million per picture. Nice pickins.

Called a cross between *Star Wars* and *Raiders*, the promotional literature reveals that *Battlefield Earth* has everything: suspense, pathos, war, humor and even intergalactic finance.

—BS