

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE BUILDING  
March 18, 1981

The meeting was called to order by JACK K. MOORE, Chairman, at 1:35 p.m., in Room 108, Capitol Building, Helena, Montana. All committee members were present except Representative Bardanoue, Senator Etchart and Senator Himsl. Also in attendance was BOB ROBINSON, Fiscal Analyst.

Testimony was given by Michael W. Hager, Museum of the Rockies Director; J.D. Holmes, Institute of Arts Foundation; Ron Holliday, Administrator of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and Phil Hauck, Director of Architecture and Engineering.

The CHAIRMAN stated he would like to have two bills, House Bill 356 and House Bill 261 discussed in that order today.

PROPOSERS

REP. VINCENT, sponsor of HB 356 from District 78 in Bozeman, explained this bill takes a positive step in preserving Montana's history, see Exhibit A. He asked Michael Hager, Director of the Museum of the Rockies, to speak regarding the plans the Museum of the Rockies has in regard to this bill. He stated, what in essence they are asking for is planning money for \$110,000. This is a modest amount in regard to the fact that they plan to raise close to \$6 million in private money to actually construct and complete this project. He wanted to emphasize the natural history of the state, and much of the natural materials that constitute this history are today leaving the state never to return. This has a twofold impact in regard to the citizens of Montana, since these people have to travel thousands of miles from Montana to view their history, plus the tourists coming to Montana cannot study on site history. With this expansion of the Museum of the Rockies, there would be an outstanding facility of national repute, and would cover Montana's history well, and enable the residents to view this history in their state.

MR. HAGER, Director of the Museum of the Rockies, handed out Exhibit A, a Proposal for Museum of the Rockies Expansion Program. He explained many of the national museums transport many of Montana's fossils. They should, because Montana has very limited public displays of their fossils, very few researchers collecting these, and no facility to house these fossils in. He stated when he speaks to school groups the children are amazed to find that the dinosaur fossils are found in Montana. He stated in the past two years the Museum of the Rockies has displayed a 7 1/2 foot Triceratop skull, and last summer a 20 foot long swimming reptile was collected. Within the last month, they have prepared the largest nest of dinosaur eggs ever discovered in the world. These eggs were returned by Princeton University on a permanent loan basis and are currently displayed at the Museum of the Rockies. Next summer, they plan to collect the rest of the skeleton

of the Tyrannosaurus rex, which is a 65 million year old meat-eating dinosaur. This will be the fourth known skeleton known to science, and the other three were collected in Garfield County, Montana, and are now on display in Pittsburgh, New York and Los Angeles. He noted the Museum of the Rockies is located in a relatively new 30,000 square foot facility worth about \$2 million. Most of the museum is privately donated, and they are a part of Montana State University, but are also a public museum as well. The Museum is asking for \$110,000 to complete the architecture drawings, detailed plans in model and make accurate cost determinations and develop a prospectus on the new addition. The new facility will feature a planetarium, a geology/paleontology building, along with archeology, western art and pioneer history. They will develop the theme of One Place Through All Of Time. With the architecture plans and prospectus, they intend to raise construction funds from national foundations, corporations, citizens and grants, and donate the facility to the state. They feel it is logical to use coal tax funds as seed money for this project, which seeks to protect and preserve Montana's heritage. This facility will draw tourists into the region, and besides being a major tourist attraction, be a major school resource, and a source of pride for all of Montana.

#### OPPONENTS

MR. J.D. HOLMES stated he is not opposing the hopes and aspirations of the plans, he is opposing the method of seeking funds from the earmarked coal tax revenue through a separate bill. HB 356 cites a statute number that refers to the earmarked coal tax funds, but does not refer to 22-3-112. This is the directions given by the legislation two years ago as to how to apply for grants. This requires that anyone seeking a grant from this fund must do it through the trustees of the State Historical Society. He stated they did comply by this particular provision, as to submitting their proposal by December 1, of the year preceding a legislative session. Then the trustees of the Historical Society shall submit to the legislature by the 15th day of the session a list of grant proposals. The legislature must appropriate funds from this account before any grant is awarded. The Museum of the Rockies made their proposal before the Historical Society under the terms of the 1979 act. The Society had a lot of requests for money, and set up a committee and came up with a priority list that they submitted to the legislature. In that priority list they recommended funding for 15 projects, and they recommended certain projects be denied. This happened to be one the Committee recommended be denied. He stated he would like to point out the latest estimate within that fund is \$707,606, the actual distribution of the money will be up to this committee. He stated they are asking that this committee wait until they have heard the other 15 priority items before considering this bill.

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Hager why they pursued this bill in this

manner.

MR. HAGER stated when the guidelines came out from the Montana Historical Society, he showed the guidelines to Rep. Scully and Rep. Vincent. Rep. Scully felt the guidelines as suggested by the Montana Historical Society were confusing and were not within the intent of the original legislation. He was advised that the option was available to introduce legislation from anyone for use of those funds. They submitted this through the Montana Historical Society as well as introduced this as a separate piece of legislation. The guidelines were confusing in regard to the fact the Montana Historical Society would rank the proposals and administer the funds. In Rep. Scully's opinion that was not the intent of the original legislation.

REP. VINCENT stated this was one of the reasons they have pursued this way because Rep. Scully sponsored HB 550, and it was the combined opinion of Rep. Scully, Mr. Hager, and himself, to proceed with this bill along with the submitting of this proposal to the Historical Society.

SEN. HAFHEY asked why the \$110,000 could not be added to the \$6 million being proposed to be raised by private funds.

MR. HAGER stated the most difficult selling job in a project such as this is having the prospectus ready to present to a donor, and thus with a professional proposal could entice someone willing to build this facility.

The CHAIRMAN asked how they got to where they are today with the existing building and exhibits.

MR. HAGER stated half of the entire facility and the contents were donated. The operational funds come half from the University and the other half has been raised by yearly support through donations and memberships. He stated the existing facility is 30,000 square feet with 15,000 square feet of exhibits, and 15,000 of storage and collections. The state donated the land that the facility was built on, however, the facility itself was built with private funds.

REP. VINCENT stated there were three points in conclusion: (1) The first point was there was confusion in the ranking of these projects and given that state of affairs at the time, they wanted to be sure they did everything possible so that this proposal was stated fairly and clearly to the legislature. He stated he has reservations regarding the ranking of these proposals, and would rather see the legislature presented a list not with priority rankings, but just a list of projects for them to determine the merit of each of these proposals. He stated the legislature is spending the coal tax money and are responsible to the people of Montana, how this should be appropriated. (2) He stated they are only asking for \$110,000 for the beginning money that is out of a total of

\$6 million that will be raised from citizens, corporations and grants, etc. He feels this is a small amount and would be Montana's public contribution to this project. (3) The third reason why this HB 356 was presented in this fashion is because time is critical. He stated he recently learned they were not among the 11 rankings of the Historical Society, and time is important. This summer crews will come in from out of state and displace our heritage and put it somewhere else in the country. He is not sure if there is anything we can do now to prevent this happening, but with the commitment of this bill, or another method this project warrants funding, then we can at least send out a signal that we are committed to keeping our heritage.

#### HOUSE BILL 261

REP. ERNST, sponsor of HB 261 from District 47, handed out Exhibit B, Ackley Lake State Recreation Area, and four statements from the City County Planning Board, and other residents. He noted there is a lot of enthusiasm from many of the local residents, and the planning has been going on for many years. He noted there were three busloads of people, who planned to attend the sponsoring of HB 261, but due to the poor weather conditions, the roads were not able to be traveled on.

REP. SCHULTZ, Lewistown representative, read Exhibit D to the committee. He noted everyone in central Montana supports this proposal.

MR. HOLLIDAY stated he does not recall a project in the last few years that has had so much local enthusiasm. He read Exhibit E in regard to his testimony.

REP. ERNST noted the detailed plans were indicated on Exhibit B, Page 3 regarding the cost estimates for roadwork, facilities, boat ramps, tables, etc. for the West Side, South Side, and East Side. He noted there had been a more elaborate plan to include caretaker, electricity etc, but that has been cut down, and the total that has come up is \$203,000.

THE CHAIRMAN asked why \$101,500 was marked from the resource indemnity trust earmarked revenue account. He noted due to discussion this account was to be left to the governor's projects.

REP. ERNST stated HB261 was drafted 3 months ago, and appeared to be the best source at the time. He noted at the present facilities there are two little shade structures, and the

sanitary areas are in terrible shape and were put up by voluntary help, and there is no drinking water.

REP. PHILLIPS stated there is very little alternative to Ackley Lake. There is the possibility of going to Winnett or Martinsdale, but the distance is getting too great.

REP. SCHULTZ stated as an avid boater, they have used everything in that area including the Missouri River, which is quite dangerous due to the changing water conditions. He had traveled to Fort Peck or to Helena, but a 200 mile round trip is getting to be almost financially impossible.

REP. DONALDSON asked about the federal land and water conservation fund and how it was distributed.

MR. HOLLIDAY stated this is a federal source of money that they administer. Half of the money goes to local communities for recreation projects, and the other half can be appropriated by the legislature for capital acquisition and development projects. It can't be used for operations. In the history of the program it has always been appropriated. He restated his Department does not know whether or not this will be reappropriated. He wanted the Committee to understand there may not be \$101,500 in the land and water conservation fund, so the money may have to come from state sources.

MR. HAUCK stated there were a few technical problems in the appropriations bills, that if the money was to be appropriated it should be appropriated to the Department of Administration for the project rather than the Department of Parks and Wildlife. He noted there would be fees on the project because it would involve architectural and engineering fees.

There being no further discussion or comments the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.



JACK K. MOORE, Chairman





1 HOUSE BILL NO. 261  
 2 INTRODUCED BY Ernest Selby, Olympia Dorr  
 3  
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE \$203,000  
 5 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS FOR  
 6 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT ACKLEY LAKE, LOCATED SOUTHWEST  
 7 OF LEWISTOWN."

8  
 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:  
 10 Section 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated  
 11 \$101,500 from the federal land and water conservation fund  
 12 and \$101,500 from the resource indemnity trust earmarked  
 13 revenue account as authorized by Title 15, chapter 38, to  
 14 the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for recreational  
 15 development at Ackley Lake, located southwest of Lewistown.

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL  
HB 261



**A PROPOSAL FOR**  
**the**  
**MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES EXPANSION PROGRAM**

**Prepared by**  
**The Museum of the Rockies**  
**Board of Trustees**

**Submitted to**  
**The Montana Historical Society**  
**Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Program**  
**November 28, 1980**

*Exhibit A*

## INTRODUCTION

The Museum of the Rockies is a regional educational resource dedicated to the interpretation of the physical and cultural heritage of Montana and the Northern Rocky Mountain Region. "One place through all of time" is the concept that weaves a thread of historic continuity through all aspects of the Museum, from exhibits and publications to public programs and extension classes. The Museum features the geology (rocks, minerals, and mountain building); paleontology (fossils); archaeology (prehistoric Indian artifacts); ethnology (historic Indian art and artifacts); history (pioneer settlement to the present); and western art of the region (see Museum brochure, Attachment #1) and seeks to interpret and relate all of these aspects of our rich physical and cultural diversity.

The Museum of the Rockies physical facility (current value in excess of \$1 million) was constructed in 1972 entirely with private funds and the facility as well as the extensive collections (estimated value in excess of \$1 million) were donated to the people of Montana for public, community, and University use.

The Museum of the Rockies operational budget for 1980-81 is about \$200,000. Of that total, \$116,000 is provided by private sources and federal grants and \$84,000 is provided by Montana State University in salaries for the five museum professionals on the staff. The professional staff supervises a volunteer support group of more than 60.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Museum of the Rockies was constructed in modules to facilitate future expansion. The Board of Trustees is currently planning new facilities unique to the entire Northern Rockies to be constructed with private funds for the people of Montana. The major components include:

- a planetarium
- a geology/paleontology building
- archaeology exhibits
- an outdoor native prairie exhibit area
- buildings designed as passive solar exhibits and displaying regional architecture

Before a serious all-out effort to secure private funds can take place, detailed plans, architectural drawings and sketches, accurate cost determinations and a prospectus need to be developed. This part of the project is referred to as Phase I and will cost \$110,000. Only when the program has been defined in detail and the facility has been designed including architectural models and sketches, can fund raising begin. Current support for the project is very strong and we are confident, based upon our past record, that the facility will be constructed in the near future with private funds. (See Attachment #3 – Letters of Support)

## PURPOSE

No institution presently exists in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region (from Denver to Calgary) which serves the public need for natural history education. The public desire for such information is profound due to our rich legacy of natural resources. (See Attachment #2 – The Cultural and Aesthetic Implications of This Project). These resources are being rapidly consumed by weathering away uncollected in the field, development and amateur and professional collectors. Nearly every major museum in the United States proudly displays magnificent fossils and important archaeological materials collected in Montana, yet there is little to be found

on display in our state. To serve the needs of the public, this complex will be designed to:

- explain the birth of the solar system and our planet as well as interpret our “Big Sky”
- provide our own citizens an opportunity to see life-size dinosaur models and skeletons “at home” in their native region, not just in museums outside of Montana
- interpret the geologic and life history of our region including the birth of the Rockies, and the formation of our economic mineral deposits
- interpret the fascinating archaeological record of Native Americans from their arrival here more than 10,000 years ago to the present
- incorporate our current history, ethnology, and western art displays into the overall theme of the new facility—“one place through all of time”
- relate the present to our past in outdoor interpretative displays such as sod roof settlers’ cabins and historic agricultural equipment

A museum facility such as the one described above is not practical without multiple use. It could be used part-time by many departments at Montana State University, thus enabling students an opportunity to experience a part of Montana history not otherwise available to them. The planetarium could be used by the Physics Department to teach astronomy, and faculty and graduate students could, in turn, give public programs. The Departments of Earth Sciences, Native American Studies, History, Education, Film and Television, and Art could use the facility in their instructional programs and students from those departments could provide museum assistance. Great potential exists with such a facility for innovative extension programs involving the entire state. In short, the location will guarantee multiple use, labor and administrative efficiency and heavy use by students and Montana residents attending campus events as well as by tourists.

This complex will be a source of pride for all of Montana and will complement our current fine historic and western art museums as well as smaller local museums. The Museum of the Rockies, located on our southern border, will not only meet a real education need not currently fulfilled by other museums, but it will be a dynamic tourist attraction near Yellowstone Park which will help bring tourists to Montana.

### **ACTIVITIES**

As soon as funds are made available, an architect will be selected according to State policy and procedure. The Museum staff, appropriate University personnel, Museum board members, and an advisory group of knowledgeable citizens from throughout the state will work with the architect in completing Phase I no later than January 1, 1983. As work progresses on the Design and Development of the facility, fund raising efforts will phase in so that an all-out effort can be launched at the completion of Phase I.

### **Budget Request**

#### **Phase I—Design Development**

- Program Definition
- Schematic Design
- Design Development
- Estimate of Probable Construction Cost
- Prospectus Development and Printing Costs

\_\_\_\_\_  
\$110,000\*

*\*Based on Construction Estimate—Phase II*

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AND CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE

### Phase II—Major Components (see Attachment #4)

#### Planetarium—“Interpreting Our Big Sky”

- 150 seat multi-use facility for public programs and classes
- primary, secondary, University and adult astronomy classes
- astronomy and remote sensing (satellite and aerial photography) exhibits

#### Geology/Paleontology Building—“Our Prehistoric Past”

- life-size dinosaur skeletons and models
- fossil exhibits from each geologic time period
- rock, mineral, and economic mineral displays
- fossil preparation workshop and public viewing area
- “hands-on” science discovery room

#### Archaeology/Ethnology Building—“Prehistoric and Historic Native Peoples”

- exhibits based on archaeological research of native people of our region
- archaeological exhibits interpreting Indian life from about 10,000 years ago to historic times
- ethnology exhibits featuring Native American arts and artifacts of the historic period to the present
- exhibits to be installed in an existing building using extensive collections now in storage

#### Existing Facilities

- historic western art gallery featuring the Greater Montana Foundation Collection
- history building featuring pioneer settlement to the recent history of Montana
- gallery devoted to monthly rotating displays

### Phase II—Construction Estimate

Construction Cost—33,000 square feet

Planetarium Equipment

Site work (roads, walks, parking, outdoor exhibits, etc.)

Administration, supervision, state reviews, advertising, etc.

Design Costs

Contingencies

Exhibits, furnishings, etc.

Total Estimated Cost	\$3,996,000
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# MUSEUM of the ROCKIES

## Bozeman, Montana

### Purpose

The Museum of the Rockies is a University-Community educational resource dedicated to the interpretation of the physical and cultural heritage of the Northern Rocky Mountains. This region is a source of pride and wonderment because of its physical and cultural diversity. "One place through all of time" is the concept that weaves a thread of historic continuity through all aspects of the Museum, from exhibits and programs to the Gift Shop.



### Geology

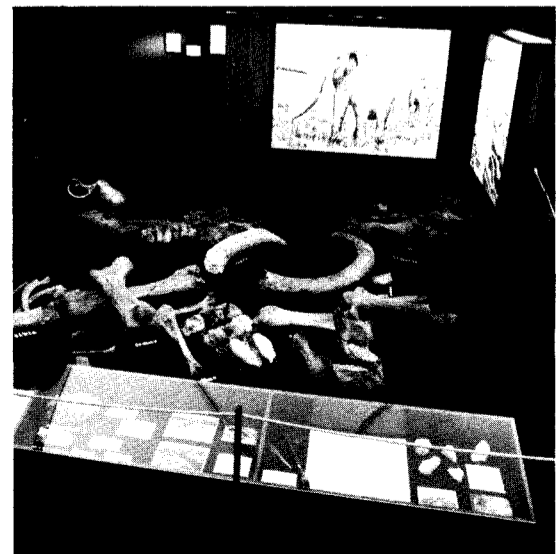
The geologic past of our region is intimately linked to its economic and social future. Much of the region's wealth lies buried in the earth awaiting extraction and use by man. This vast legacy includes an amazingly rich array of fossils representing animals and plants that have lived here throughout the ages in environments far different from the present. Exhibited and interpreted at the Museum are some of these unique "critters" from the past.



### Archaeology

Montana's geologic past created a rich legacy for human immigrants to this region. The first people here were hunters pursuing mammoth and other large game. Evidence of mammoth hunting is seen in the Lindsay Mammoth display, an exhibit which interprets this fascinating 11,700 year old paleontologic/archaeologic site.

Middle and late prehistoric people of our region were hunters and foragers. Annual field research and collecting has yielded an abundance of material for museum programs and planned extensive archaeological displays.





around Banate. A furnished medicine tipi, beautiful beadwork, fine clothing, weapons, and riding equipment illustrate and interpret the culture of the Plains Indian.



### History

Though not the first whites into the western wilderness, the Lewis and Clark explorations of 1804-06 opened the territory to settlement. The fur trade era was followed by the mining frontier with a major gold rush in 1862. As mining boomed, transportation routes emerged and, by the mid 1860's, white settlers began arriving in large numbers. The Open Range boom of the 1880's was followed by the Homestead Boom of the early 1900's. From that time to the present, agriculture and the utilization of natural resources have been the



major industry of the region. The Museum interprets the settlement of our region with "hands on" exhibits. Visitors are encouraged to look, touch, read, and imagine as they explore the past and ponder the future.



### Western Art

Our region is well endowed with artists who have captured the spirit and history of the west. We are very proud of our Greater Montana Foundation Collection of historic western art including works of Olaf Seltzer, Edgar Paxson, R. E. DeCamp, William Standing, Charlie Russell, and historic cartoons of Jim Masterson. Exhibits include painting, sculpture, correspondence, photographs, and biographies to provide knowledge of the artist as well as an appreciation for the art. Our art collection is small but of high quality and rapidly growing.



Other gallery displays are changed monthly and include contemporary western art as well as interpretive exhibits.



### Location

South 7th and Kagy Blvd. on the Montana State University Campus near the football stadium.

### Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Mondays winter season and all national holidays.

### Gift shop

Our gift shop contains a fine selection of books, art, photographs, jewelry, and crafts of the Northern Rocky Mountain Region.

### Membership

Individual \$10.00; Family \$20.00; Life \$250.00; Inquire about categories and corporate business memberships.

### Activities

Members activities include classes, guest speakers, exhibit openings and field trips. Members also receive a 10% Gift Shop discount.

### Additional Information

No admission charge; tours available for groups upon request.

Telephone 406-994-2251.

## Attachment #2

### CULTURAL AND AESTHETIC IMPLICATIONS

The cultural and aesthetic implications of this proposal are far reaching and important. The project will give to visitors an expanded awareness of the sum total ways of living built up by human beings—a standard definition of “culture.” Because this awareness helps to develop a sense of the relatedness of all things, it is also aesthetic, for aesthetics has to do with the beauty which comes when things are perceived as whole, harmonious, and radiant.

This proposal is a call for recollection, for reintegration, for restoration of our links to the sky, the earth, history, society and self.

Archaic peoples believed that the stars told stories of gods and goddesses, heroes and heroines; that certain configurations of planets affected the lives and fortunes of humanity. Today, with electric light, the stars are usually ignored, or, at best, thought of simply as ornaments in the night sky. A museum planetarium—a hyposphere—with its wraparound dome and lowered horizon projection, renews a lost intimacy with the stars and the immense spectacle of limitless space. The culminating event of a total environmental experience center, the planetarium convinces the visitor of his profound connection with all things.

Life-size prehistoric animals such as the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, pterodactyl, and mastodon, and displays which feature major events in the on-going geologic history of the Northern Rockies are just a few of the numerous paleontological, archaeological, and geological exhibits which seek to involve the visitor in an experience which will reawaken him to the earth, its history and mystery. The exhibits will be arranged in ways to make the visitor not only an observer but a participant in the life history of the region.

By interpreting, in deeply imaginative ways, our corner of the world, we throw filaments—light—to the farthest corners of the cosmos, and there discover our Selves.

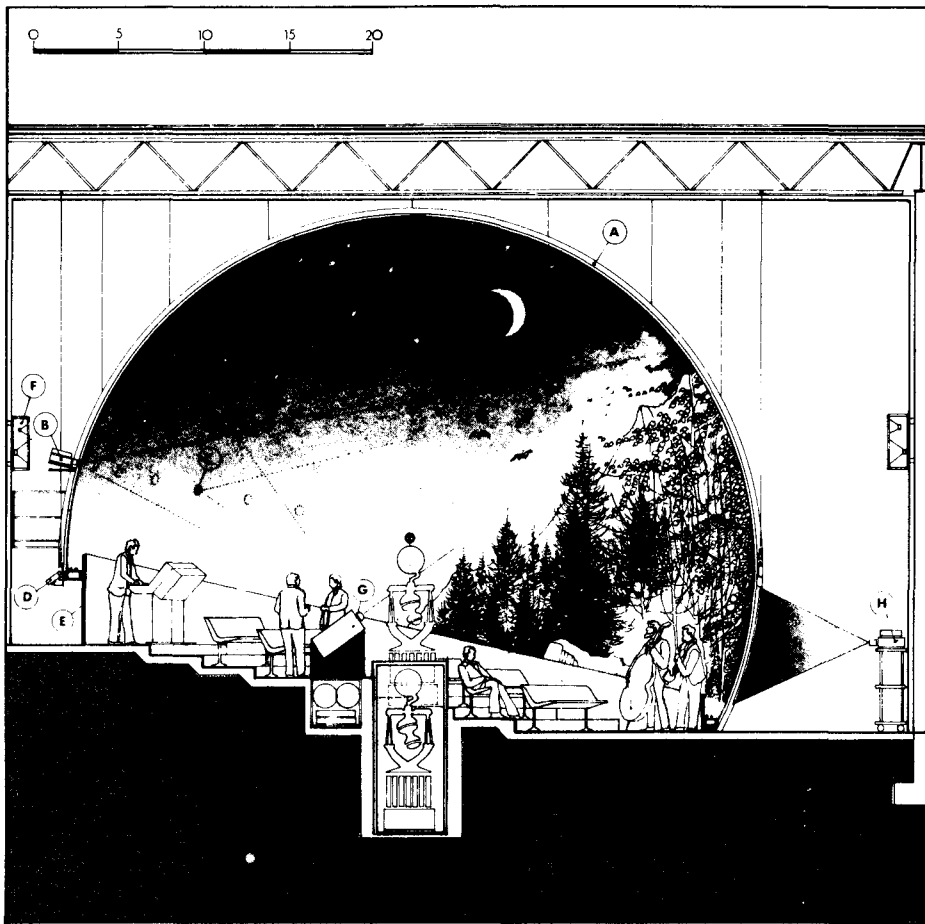
This proposal is, in short, a blueprint for the actualization of these words by Gerard De Nerval: “Everything lives, everything acts, everything corresponds. . . . It is a transparent network that covers the world, and its fine threads communicate from one to the other, to the planets and to the stars.”

Attachment #3

**LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

William Clemens	Paleontologist, University of California, Berkeley
A. B. Guthrie, Jr.	Author and Montana resident, Choteau, Montana
J. C. Harksen	District Geologist, BLM, Lewistown, Montana
John Horner	Paleontologist, Princeton University
Earl W. Johnson	First National Bank and Trust Company, Helena, Montana
Warren (Buck) Jones	Rancher, Harlowton, Montana
Larry Kirkpatrick	Physicist, Physics Department, Montana State University
Robert Makela	Rancher, Rudyard, Montana
John Montagne	Geologist, Earth Science Department, Montana State University
Ray Steele	Director, C. M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, Montana
John Tkach	Physician, B ozeman, Montana
Andrew VanTeylingen	Architect and Facility Planning Director, Montana State University





**A. Suspended hyposphere projection screen;** lap seam construction. Vinyl coated panels, Spitz Silver Cloud for trans-reflectance control; 22% void perforation pattern for HVAC and acoustics.

**B. "Port-Pan" system** for wide angle projection with cross-face, multi-screen matching and low keystoning. Ten (10) 500 watt projectors, 2" F.L. lenses.

**C. Porthole system** with virtually invisible closure and random select openings for lighting and other desired effects.

**D. Alternate special effects projector** locations.

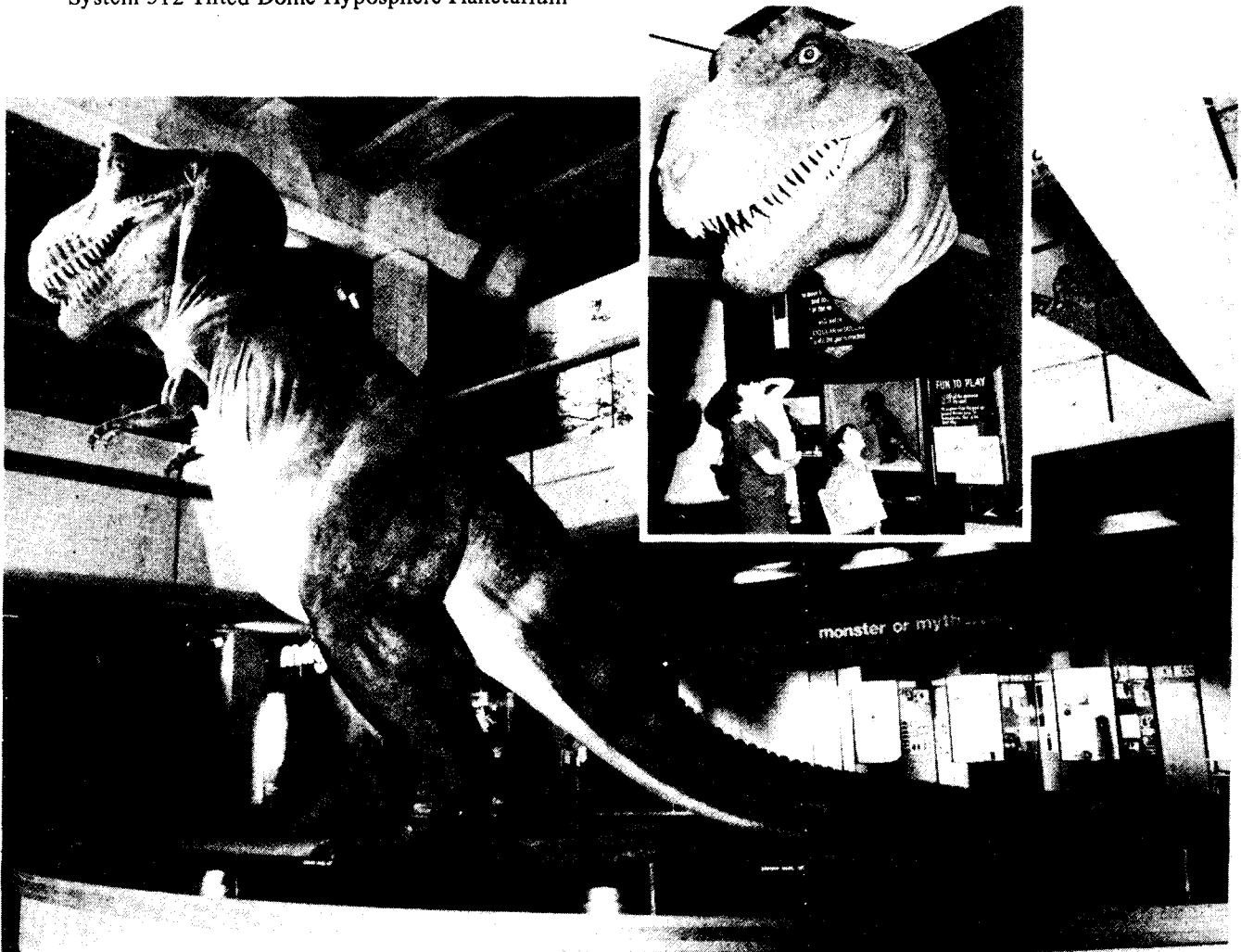
**E. Peripheral base wall** for recessed cove lighting.

**F. Multi-speaker sound system.**

**G. Optional fisheye motion picture projector;** console controlled, random access, variable speed, fast rewind.

**H. Optional background projection** onto rear screen; scrim effect for horizon and other projection.

System 512 Tilted Dome Hyposphere Planetarium



GERALDINE LYNN  
Clerk and Recorder

MARIAN BILLADEAU  
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS:  
Arnie Haack, Chairman  
Russell Hodge  
Bob McCray, Sr.

# Judith Basin County, Montana

OFFICE OF CLERK AND RECORDER

STANFORD, MONTANA 59479

February 3, 1981

Gene Ernst  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Gene:

As the new Board of County Commissioners of Judith Basin County, we would very much appreciate your support of the Ackley Lake Improvement Bill, House Bill 261.

The people of Judith Basin County and surrounding areas need a close, decent place to enjoy the outdoor activities which Ackley Lake can provide.

With the soaring price of gasoline, we can no longer afford to drive to places like Canyon Ferry, Holter Lake or Fort Peck to partake in water related activities and recreation. In this part of the state we have very few natural resources like Ackley Lake, so we need to develop what we do have to it's utmost.

Thanking you in advance, we are

Very Truly Yours,

Arnie Haack, Chairman.

*Arnie Haack*

Russell Hodge

*Russell Hodge*

Bob McCray, Sr.

*Bob McCray Sr.*

C-1

Stanford, Montana

January 28, 1981

Gene Ernst  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Gene:

I am writing on behalf of the proposed project for recreational facilities at Ackley Lake.

The Judith Basin County Planning Board has held numerous public hearings for this project. I have attended them and find the public in full support of this project. It appears there is no other location for recreational activities elsewhere between Great Falls and Lewistown.

With the escalating price of gasoline, the inconvenience of traveling long distances to recreate, and the need for more recreation due to pressures of our society, we desperately need a close, decent place to enjoy outdoor activities that Ackley Lake can offer all of us.

The Judith Basin County Commissioners fully support this project and we have already upgraded and graveled the entry road to help reduce the cost of furthering this project.

Any assistance that you can give us on this project will be greatly appreciated by this Board of County Commissioners and the citizens of Judith Basin County.

Thanking you, I remain

Yours truly,

Judith Basin County Commissioners

By

  
Chairman.

b

C-2

# Judith Basin City-County Planning Board

STANFORD, MONTANA 59479

January 28, 1981

Gene Ernst  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59601


Dear Gene:

On behalf of myself and the nine other members of the Judith Basin City-County Planning Board, we would like to offer our strongest support and encouragement of the passage of the bill before your committee concerning improvement to Ackley Lake.

There is a tremendous need for recreational facilities in our area and since Ackley Lake is our only source of water that can be used for boating, water skiing, and other "lake-type" activities, we feel it would be a terrible waste if this body of water was not used to its fullest potential.

We strongly urge your utmost consideration of this bill as it would greatly benefit so many people in our surrounding areas who so deserve a DECENT place to relax and enjoy our great outdoors.

Sincerely,

  
Irvin Larson, Chairman  
Stanford

Edward Cervenka, Moccasin  
Logan Hazen, Stanford  
Jack Wright, Kolin  
Lawrence Dickson, Geysers  
Fred Youderian, Stanford  
Bob Noel, Hobson  
Harold Peterson, Hobson  
Darrell Watkins, Raynesford  
Debbie Cheek, Secretary, Stanford

P.S. Just thought you would like to know what we were sending to the rest of the committee. I am also typing up the two letters from the Commissioners. C-

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, FOR THE RECORD MY NAME IS JAMES SCHULTZ, REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 48. HB 261

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, CENTRAL MONTANA IS AN UNUSUAL AREA IN THAT WE HAVE LOTS OF MOUNTAINS, LOTS OF TREES AND VERY LITTLE RECREATIONAL WATER.

MANY OF THE PEOPLE IN LEWISTOWN WOULD BE GLAD TO TAKE THEIR BOATS AND FAMILIES OUT TO ACKLEY LAKE IF THERE WERE FACILITIES THERE TO ACCOMMODATE THEM. BUT SINCE THERE IS ONLY A SMALL AREA THAT IS AVAILABLE FOR CAMPING, MOST CENTRAL MONTANAN'S TRAIL THEIR TRAILERS AND BOATS TO THE MISSOURI RIVER, 70 - 100 MILES TO THE NORTH, OR OVER HERE IN LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY TO CANYON FERRY, HAUSER OR HOLTER LAKES.

THIS SECONDARY OPTION OF TRAVELING 200 MILES ON A WEEKEND TO CANYON FERRY IS GOING TO BE A PLEASANT MEMORY AS THE PRICE OF GASOLINE APPROACHES THE \$2.00 TO \$2.50 PRICE.

THIS LITTLE LAKE COULD BE AN OASIS IN AN AREA THAT HAS VERY LITTLE IN THE WAY OF LAKES.

CRYSTAL LAKE, A BEAUTIFUL LAKE IN THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS IS SO SMALL THAT NO MOTOR BOATS ARE PERMITTED. PETROLIA LAKE, PAST WINNETT, IS AN IRRIGATION RESERVOIR AND VERY UNPREDICTABLE, AND DEADMAN'S BASIN AND MARTINSDALE NEAR HARLOWTON ARE OUR ONLY CHOICES. NONE OF THESE LAKES HAVE ADEQUATE CAMPING FACILITIES.

ACKLEY LAKE HAS BEEN A BONANZA FOR FISHERMEN IN THE PAST, BUT ITS SUCCESS IS DEPENDENT ON THE FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS. AT THE PRESENT, THERE IS NO MONEY AVAILABLE IN THEIR BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT.

NEARLY 8,000 PEOPLE USE THE AREA PER YEAR. MANY CARS FROM

EX. D

PAGE 2

CASCADE, FERGUS, WHEATLAND, AND JUDITH BASIN CAN BE IDENTIFIED ON ANY WEEKEND.

THIS IS THE ONLY AREA THAT WE COULD DEVELOP NEAR LEWISTOWN, AND THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION MAKES THIS A LOGICAL SITE FOR THE CENTER OF THE STATE.

I URGE THE COMMITTEE'S SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE \$200,000 PROJECT.

4

TESTIMONY OF RON HOLLIDAY  
ADMINISTRATOR, PARKS DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
March 18, 1981

House Bill 261

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Ron Holliday, Administrator of the Parks Division, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. I am speaking today in favor of House Bill 261.

Ackley Lake is an off-stream storage reservoir south of Hobson in central Montana. The dam is operated by the Water Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the local water users.

For many years it has been a very popular recreation attraction for the area residents. In just 3½ months last year, almost 8,000 people used the area for fishing, boating, camping and other recreation pursuits even though recreation facilities at the reservoir are almost non-existent. This bill will provide funding to correct this situation.

Proposed developments include roads and parking areas, a boat ramp, sanitary facilities, shelters and fencing. The development plan which would be implemented by this bill has been developed in conjunction with the local residents and the Ackley Lake Development Committee. There has been abundant and enthusiastic local support for this project.

Operation and maintenance of the dam and outlet works would remain under the control of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the water users. Recreation responsibility and management will be transferred to the Department of Fish,

Ex 4

Wildlife and Parks. The details would be worked out between the two agencies involved.

On March 10, 1981, President Reagan asked Congress to not appropriate Land and Water Conservation Fund money for state and local governments in FY 1982. One half the funding for the Ackley Lake project, \$101,500, is slated to come from this source. Because the President suggests \$150,000,000 be appropriated for federal land acquisition and other federal projects from this source in 1982, and because Congress has strongly supported the state/local share in the past, Congress may not fully agree. We won't know for several weeks or months.

If the legislature wants to make certain the full scope of work contemplated in House Bill 261 is done, I suggest appropriating \$203,000 from state sources.

Otherwise, I suggest passage of the bill as it is now written, understanding that if the federal funds are not forthcoming, the scope of work will be halved.

Ackley Lake is an important recreation resource for central Montana and I urge you to pass House Bill 261.



# Judith Basin City-County Planning Board

STANFORD, MONTANA 59479

MR. CHAIRMAN AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS---

My name is Debbie Cheek, I live in Stanford, and I am planner-secretary for the Judith Basin City-County Planning Board. I am here today to testify on behalf of House Bill No. 261 regarding funding for recreational development at Ackley Lake located seven miles south of Hobson in Judith Basin County. As you can see by the information provided to you by the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, we are asking for a very nominal amount of funding from the state to provide for extremely BASIC facilities at Ackley Lake. This is the second time that this proposal has been brought to the legislature and we feel we are due for a portion of funding for a most worthwhile project in Central Montana.

My office became involved in this project two years ago when our planning board members and myself got repeated requests by numerous concerned citizens about the deplorable conditions that exist at Ackley Lake. Having resided in Western Montana until moving to Judith Basin County, I decided to go have a good look at Central Montanas only recreation site. To say I was shocked would be an understatement! Absolutely no basic facilities whatsoever or those that were there were unusable -- like the restrooms. The area was not only unsanitary, but unsafe. It was, and still is, in terrible condition. I guess the thing that most stuck in my mind besides the deplorable conditions, were the number of people who were trying to enjoy this one body of recreational water in Central Montana. My husband and I figured there must have been 250 people there! It was mass confusion to say the least. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and this experience sure convinced me that the people in this fine area certainly deserve a better place to enjoy recreational activities.

Through my position on the Planning Board we were able to get in touch with the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and utilize their expert personnel in assisting us in our planning needs. We set up several public meetings that

# Judith Basin City-County Planning Board

STANFORD, MONTANA 59479

were very well attended, organized an Ackley Lake Committee who worked closely with the citizens of the area as well as the Parks Division personnel, and we got the general public aware of the project. The support and enthusiasm throughout the life of this project has been terrific. The people of Central Montana appreciate a program that makes sense and this one does. Through the interest and suggestions of the people in this area we were able to cut the initial cost of the facility by one third. We feel our final cost estimates are bare bones figures. This project is realistic, it's practible, it's usable, it's low cost, and most of all it is for a no frills BASIC facility at Central Montanas most used recreation area -- Ackley Lake.

I would appreciate your utmost consideration of this bill. Thank You.

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1 HOUSE BILL NO. 261  
 2 INTRODUCED BY Ernest Schwab Phillips Daw  
 3  
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE \$203,000  
 5 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS FOR  
 6 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT ACKLEY LAKE, LOCATED SOUTHWEST  
 7 OF LEWISTOWN."

8  
 9 RE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:  
 10 Section 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated  
 11 \$101,500 from the federal land and water conservation fund  
 12 and \$101,500 from the resource indemnity trust earmarked  
 13 revenue account as authorized by Title 15, chapter 36, to  
 14 the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for recreational  
 15 development at Ackley Lake, located southwest of Lewistown.

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL  
HB 261

1983  
5  
3  
1983

HOUSE BILL NO. 356  
INTRODUCED BY Vincent Grand Alexander Roberts

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE \$110,000 FROM THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX REVENUE TO THE MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING A NATURAL HISTORY EDUCATION: ADDITION TO THE MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: Section 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$110,000 to the Montana state university, for the biennium ending June 30, 1983, from the coal severance tax revenue allocated under 15-35-108(2)(h) to cultural and aesthetic projects. The appropriation shall be used to develop detailed plans, architectural drawings and sketches, accurate cost determinations, and a prospectus for a new natural history education facility for the Museum of the Rockies.

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL  
HB 356