

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
January 18, 1983

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education met at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 1983 in Room 104 of the State Capitol. With Chairman Rep. Esther G. Bengtson presiding, all members were present. The budget for the Historical Society was heard.

Mr. Frances Olson (OBPP) gave a briefing on the Governor's budget: OBPP provides for current level plus 6% per year inflation and maintains personal services funding at approximately the 1983 level. In some of the programs there were base adjustments. The Magazine and the Merchandising programs have been consolidated. The book selling function of the Merchandising Program will be transferred to the Publications program in 1983. Regrant money should be removed from this program's funding because this is coal tax money and needs to be appropriated through the long-range building program. The OBPP budget included several modification requests. (1) Maintenance and rent for original Governor's mansion - \$30,897 per year is requested for allocation through General Services. (2) A transfer of general fund support is requested from the Department of Administration to the Society to meet the security needs of the Society. (3) To provide for a Capitol tour service. Again, this would be a transfer of funding from the Department of Administration. There are modifications for presently budget-amended programs which do not require general funding. (4) Teakle Funds. (5) Development Program - uses private and donated funds. (6) Photocopy Program. (7) Montana Historical Society Press. (8) Education Program - Montana History Conference.

Ms. Pam Joehler (LFA) then gave her analysis. She explained how each program had been funded in the past and how consolidation of the Merchandising Program had changed this. The consolidation of the Merchandising Program has resulted in an increase in the FTE in the Administration Program to 5.5. Related revolving account authority associated with the positions will also be transferred to the Administration Program. The LFA removed Cultural and Aesthetic Project funding from the Museum Program because this project has to be approved every Legislative session. There is revolving account authority for Merchandising-related expenditures and magazine sales. Also, general fund supplements the Magazine Program; it is continued in the 1985 biennium at 22.1%, exclusive of the consolidation effort. Therefore, 22.1% of the printing effort of the magazine is general fund; the rest is revolving fund. Due to consolidation, an additional FTE has been added to this program, making the total four. The now

defunct Merchandising Program deleted 4.75 FTEs from the Agency completely. The LFA presented five modification requests to the Legislature. She added that the request to put money into the Museum Program to support the original Governor's mansion rent wasn't included as a base adjustment. This funding authority was transferred to the Department of Administration by the LFA. Three of the LFA's issues related to the use of donated funds. See p. 639, 1985 LFA Budget Analysis Book.

Questions were then asked. It was brought out that the security staff would be transferred from the Department of Administration. Capitol tours and the addition of two guards was not addressed by the LFA.

Sen. Haffey asked Mr. Olson, of all the modification requests submitted to OBPP, which ones did the office recommend to the Legislature for approval. Mr. Olson replied that the request for maintenance and rent for the original Governor's mansion and the request for security staff for the Society, and the Capitol tour service request were recommended. Other than that, there were others submitted to the Office which they didn't consider. The other modification requests presented by OBPP were for presently budget amended funds. Ms. Joehler stated that she also felt that the items which were previously budget amended should be put at current level. As far as transferring the rent on the original Governor's mansion, the LFA didn't consider this. They don't feel \$30,000 is a reasonable amount. Janitorial and utilities bills paid by the Historical Society in 1982 didn't amount to this much. Also, the LFA didn't address the issue of transferring security guards from the Department of Administration because they feel it wouldn't be worth the additional cost. The Capitol tour issue is probably a reasonable request since there is no funding increase involved.

Historical Society representatives then testified. Bob Archibald, Director of the Montana Historical Society, began. They agree with and support the Governor's recommendations. There are some fairly critical problems with the LFA recommendations: (1) Transfer of Merchandising Program to Publications. They have concluded that basically, over a ten-year period, Merchandising has been at best a breaking-even or losing operation. It was their feeling and the Legislative Auditor's that the Merchandising operation was spending a dollar to earn one. They felt Merchandising should be viewed as a service to patrons and they took steps to reduce the activity in the operation and reduce inventory and FTE and overhead. He submitted that the question of the transfer of the

1.1 FTE to Administration was mainly a technical one. Merchandising has been paying a portion of the cost of other Society operations for years. The Business Manager and the accountant for the Historical Society's salaries have been paid in part by Merchandising. A much higher portion of their salaries was paid by this operation than was warranted by the services offered to the operation. This is one of the factors which led to the lack of profitability in the program; the overhead attributed to Merchandising far outweighed its draw on the Society's resources. It was their conclusion that the operation should be confined to a service-to-patron operation. (2) General Fund support for the Publications Program. According to their calculations, the LFA is only providing 19% general fund support, in opposition to what was agreed upon by the Education Subcommittee in 1981, which was the level of 22.1%. (3) The current level salary recommendations for the Museum Program are \$8,600 less than current level, in the LFA budget. (4) In the Administration Program, the LFA recommendation for rent is less than the figures the Department of Administration is proposing to assess State agencies for rent. In addition, there were smaller current level issues the agency wanted addressed in the work session.

Regarding the modification requests, the ones proposed by OBPP are the ones the Society would also like to see the Committee address. See Exhibit "A." In the past biennium they came up with some guidelines for the next five years: (1) Original Governor's Mansion: the rent issue. There were several maintenance and safety hazards in the past two years at the mansion because there wasn't enough funding to cover the costs incurred. For example, there was no maintenance contract on a high pressure boiler, and there were no regular boiler inspections. (2) Security. Security has been a major problem at the Society for some time. Their collections are valued at \$32 million, but they have no authority to do anything about security. Their security service is not designed for guarding art collections. The development of a training and security manual for the guards, as well as training programs, and internal security procedures are three areas of concern. They have worked closely with the Department of Administration over the past several years regarding these concerns. The Department doesn't feel they can provide the Society sufficiently those services which are required. In the summer of 1982, the Society's responsibility for Capitol tours began. The modification they are requesting would allow them to provide the information that the public wants regarding the Capitol. A tour guide to the Capitol was distributed. See Exhibit "B." The rest of the modifications have to do with endowment or donated funds.

In addition, the Trustees and the staff identified two areas of concern that the OBPP didn't address: See Exhibit "C."  
(1) Regarding conservation; i.e., ensuring that the collections in the Society's care don't deteriorate, they are proposing to have a conservator on staff to help alleviate some of these problems. He passed around a number of documents and artifacts which demonstrated what kind of deterioration was taking place. Brian Cockhill, State Archivist, helped explain how it could be arrested and/or reversed. They would like to take care of their own collections and also to be able to provide information to other parties in the State who need to preserve their own collections. (2) Clerical help. At this point the Society has about two people classified as clerical help. They propose the addition of a grade 9 secretary in the Administration Program to serve all programs in the Society and a grade 3, .45 FTE student to come to the Library in the afternoons to reshelve books.

Questions were then asked. Regarding volunteer work, Mr. Archibald said that this had been utilized in increasing amounts over the last few years. Part of the reason they were able to cut back the FTE in their Merchandising Program was due to the availability of volunteers from the Friends of the Society.

Rep. Bengtson wanted to know how the magazine, "Montana, Magazine of Western History," tied in with the Publications modified request. If the press does so well, why doesn't the magazine? Mr. Archibald said that the economics involved were somewhat different. It was pointed out that a lot of the overhead costs associated with the press were picked up in the Publications Program. Mr. Archibald stated that the magazine was both an educational tool and a promotional tool, and compared with other State journals, it is much more successful. In 1981, the LFA, OBPP, the Education Subcommittee, and the Society worked together to come up with a percentage figure rather than a dollar amount of what appropriation figure was needed: that percentage was 22.1%. He rose in support of this approach.

Rep. Donaldson then brought up the security issue. He expressed concern about giving agencies outside of the Department of Administration control of their own security needs. Mr. Archibald said that a solution to this problem was worked on with the Department of Administration and the Society for three years. He submitted that in the case of the Historical Society, a separate security arrangement was justified in light of their unique needs. Hiring specifications and pay rates are a problem between the Department and the Society.

Regarding the Montana History Conference, which is funded by the Committee for the Humanities: The Committee's funding future is not guaranteed as regards federal grants, but it has been constant over the past nine years. Knowing those funds might not be available in the future, the Society instituted an increase in the registration fees for the Conference from \$2 to \$10, in a move to make the operation more self-supporting. No general fund support has ever been requested for this Conference and the Society doesn't anticipate approaching the Legislature in the future for support.

Discussion took place regarding the status of the boiler maintenance and inspections in the Original Governor's Mansion. Mr. Archibald said the official boiler inspections took place, but a maintenance contract was needed which would include regular maintenance inspections. Insurance cannot be had unless there is a maintenance contract.

Rita Sheehy, Chairman of the Friends of the Society, then testified. Originally when she was a member of the Society, they just gave museum tours; since then, the organization has been doing more for the Society. She rose in support of the request for improved security.

Eric Myhre, Board of Trustees, then spoke. All fifteen districts are in favor of the Society's recommendations for the budget.

John Bishop, a volunteer in the archives for about six years, spoke. He was in favor of getting a conservator.

J. D. Holmes, Montana Arts Advocacy, submitted that handling of the Cultural and Aesthetics projects funds should be a responsibility of the Education Subcommittee rather than the Long Range Building Subcommittee.

The hearing on the Historical Society budget was closed.

Mr. Frances Olson, (OBPP) informed the Chairman that he had available for the Committee a summary of the material that was presented to the Governor's office by the Historical Society.

The Chairman announced that on the following day, Executive Action would be taken on the School for Deaf and Blind and the Historical Society. Also, MSU President Tietz and Jack Noble wanted to come before the Committee regarding the language in the University System supplemental budget request. She stated that Curt Nichols (LFA) would explain more about this on the following day.

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The Chairman said she would like a Committee member to go to Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell.

Discussion took place regarding budget modification requests. Mr. Olson outlined the process: (1) The agency submits current level budget adjustments to the Governor's office. (2) They are asked to address issues they feel are concerns. Each concern is described. The LFA and OBPP receive copies. The concerns are reviewed with the agency and are prioritized. The modified requests accepted by the Governor's office are included in their ending fund balance estimates. Sen. Haffey submitted that addressing modification requests was part of the Committee's responsibility. The Chairman stated that modifications would be reviewed, but if no motion was made, the request would be considered neither accepted nor rejected.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Esther G. Bengtson", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Esther G. Bengtson, Chairman

VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE Appropriations Sub - COMMITTEE

BILL Historical Society in Education Date 1/18/83  
Budget

SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
P. Archibald	HELENA	MT. HIST SOC	✓	
J. Garabito	Helena	MT. Hist Society	✓	
R. Clark	Helena	MT Historical Society	✓	
Brian Cockhill	Helena	MT Hist. Soc.	✓	
ERIC MYHRE	Helena	MT Hist Soc	✓	
Rita Sheehy	Helena	"	✓	
J. D. Holmes	Helena	MT. ARTS ADVOCACY	✓	
JOAN BISHOP	HELENA	MT. HIST. SOC.	✓	
Marcella Sharfy	Helena	MT. Hist. Soc.	✓	
Kay Miller	Helena			
Carole Tacke	"	Reg. District of Vincent		

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

1/18/83  
EXHIBIT "A"

Modification Totals for the Montana Historical Society

	<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
<u>Modifications</u>				
Governor's Mansion (Old)	37,674	41,694		
Security Staff (4.50 FTE)	82,557	81,085		
Capitol Tours (1.50 FTE)	24,110	27,721		
Teakle Funds			5,074	5,114
Development Program (1.00 FTE)			55,184	57,551
Photocopy Program			9,058	9,601
MT Historical Society Press			41,033	43,526
MT Historical Society Conf.			14,780	15,555
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	144,341	150,500	125,129	131,347
Biennium Totals		\$294,841		\$256,476
All Total		\$551,317		



c. Have two guards on duty during open hours: one to patrol galleries on a 70 minute shift and another man the security center. After closing, the guards should check throughout the building to insure no one is hiding.

3. Capitol Tour Service  
Program (08) Education

	<u>General Fund</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
FTE	1.50	1.50
<u>Costs:</u>		
Personal Services	21,040	20,584
Operations	2,020	7,137
Equipment	<u>1,050</u>	
Totals	24,110	<u>27,721</u>
Biennium Totals	\$51,831	

Purpose:

General fund in the amount of \$51,831 for the biennium is requested as a transfer of funding from the department of administration to the Historical Society which has assumed responsibility for the provision of tour services in the capitol building.

Modifications 4 through 8 are activities previously authorized by budget amendment which do not require general funds. Legislative authorization and appropriation are requested for these modifications.

4. Teakle Funds  
Program (02) Library

	<u>Other Fund</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
<u>Costs:</u>		
Operations (Subscriptions)	674	714
Equipment (Books)	<u>4,400</u>	<u>4,400</u>
Totals	5,074	5,114
Biennium Totals	\$10,188	

Purpose:

This modification is to include funds which are generated annually by the Thomas Teakle Endowment Fund. This fund was established by Mr. Teakle's Will to provide monies for adding to a core collection of cattle industry materials which Mr. Teakle also donated to the Library. The Library will use these funds, as stipulated by the Will, to purchase books, pamphlets periodicals, and materials on microform which are appropriate to the subject areas of the collection, and for occasional special costs incurred in the processing of Teakle Collection materials. Principal amount of \$40,854.02.

5. Development Program  
 Program (01) Administration

	<u>Other Funds</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
FTE	1.00	1.00
<u>Costs:</u>		
Personal Services	20,517	20,473
Operations	<u>34,667</u>	<u>37,078</u>
Totals:	55,184	57,551
Biennium Totals:	\$112,735	

Purpose:

To utilize private, donated funds to support an organized and systematic effort to tap the potential of private giving in support of special projects at the Society.

The requested position will assist the Director and allow the Society to pursue vigorously financial participation by the people of Montana and people interested in Montana's history from outside the state. A process will be established to identify donors and match them with projects in which they are interested, and to coordinate other activities such as soliciting and managing the special membership program, coordinating all fundraising activities including feasibility, donor identification and management of campaigns and developing information brochures on Society activities and special events.

6. Photocopy Program  
 Program (02) Library

	<u>Other Funds</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
<u>Costs:</u>		
Operational	9,058	9,601
Biennium Totals:	18,659	

Purpose:

Photocopy Fund. This modification is to include funds which are generated by fees for providing photocopying, microform reading and printing, and microform duplicating services to its clientele, and to obtain the authority to spend these revenues for the purposes of leasing and maintaining the necessary photocopy and microform reader/printer equipment, purchasing the necessary supplies for these services, duplicating on a reimbursement basis microform materials held in negative form by the Society for other institutions and individuals.

7. Montana Historical Society Press  
 Program (04) Publications

	<u>Other Funds</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
<u>Costs:</u>		
Operations	41,033	43,526
Biennium Totals:		84,559

Purpose:

To add the Montana Historical press project to current level. These projects have been budget amended in the past.

The Montana Historical Society Press, operating on earned revenue, is a continuation of the Montana Historical Society's publication effort that began in 1876. The Press fulfills a statutory obligation to provide historical materials in published form supporting the diffusion of knowledge about and the promotion of study of Montana history.

8. Montana History Conference  
 Program (08) Education

	<u>Other Funds</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
<u>Costs:</u>		
Operations	14,780	15,555
Biennium Totals:		30,335

Purpose:

The purpose of this modification is to add the Montana History Conference as a current level operation.

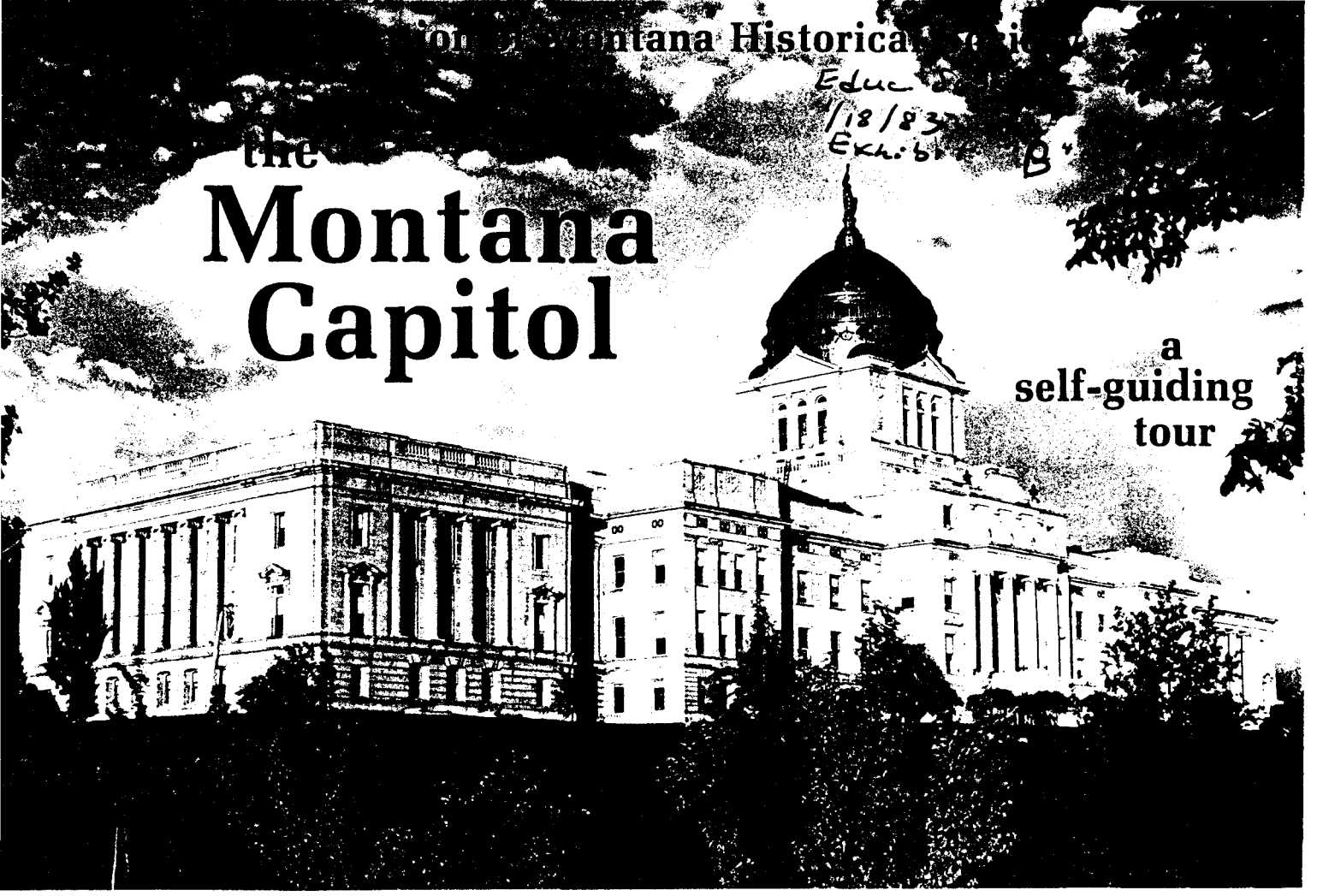
The Historical Society has operated a Montana history conference since 1975. These conferences have all been funded by grant monies from the Montana Committee for the Humanities, supplemented by small amounts of money raised by registration fees.

The purpose of these conferences is to provide exposure and access to a wide spectrum of Montana history for interested citizens of the state.

Educ. Dept.  
1/18/83  
Exhib. B

# the Montana Capitol

a  
self-guiding  
tour



Montana's Capitol depicts the heritage of our people. The vast expanses and abundant resources . . . the beauty of the land and the character of our good people are expressed in the artwork throughout the building.

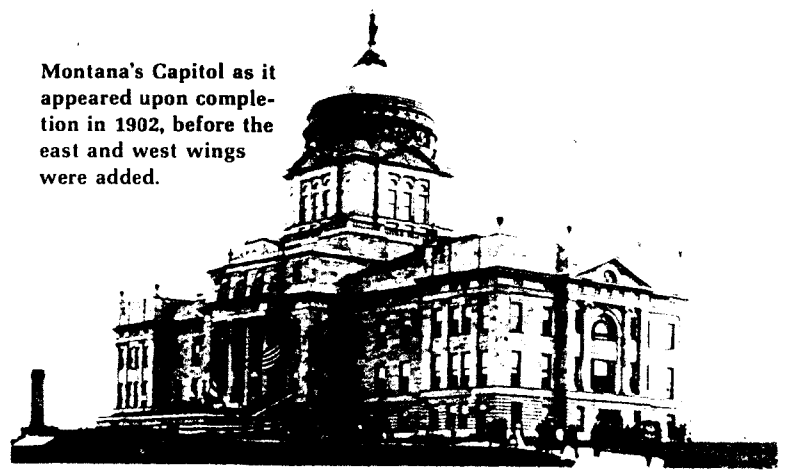
Here you will see trappers, cowboys, explorers, miners, Indians, and homesteaders—all contributors to our identity as Montanans.

The spirit of the Big Sky Country is embodied here—a zest for adventure, a pioneering nature and a lasting respect for democracy.

In 1989, Montanans celebrate our first 100 years as a state. I invite you to experience Montana and share in the excitement of our young, growing state.

Enjoy your visit here. Montana—the Last of What is Best in America—welcomes you.

Montana's Capitol as it appeared upon completion in 1902, before the east and west wings were added.



TED SCHWINDEN, Governor

Montana Capitol tours, and this self-guiding tour booklet, are under the responsibility of, and produced by, the Montana Historical Society.

## Introduction

Situated against a backdrop of the hills of Helena, the Montana state capitol commands a panoramic view over the Helena Valley, which explorers Lewis and Clark named the "Prickly Pear Valley" when they traversed it in their journey of 1805. A century of exploration, trapping, prospecting, mining, settlement and development had occurred in what became Montana, before the milestone of building a state capitol was achieved. The story of that development would be painted on these state-house walls, commemorating the frontier that had once seemed so vast.

When Montana Territory achieved statehood in 1889, construction of a home for the new government was as yet a decade away. The natural struggles of political development were complicated by a severe economic depression that began in 1893, a bitter contest for location of the permanent capital in 1892-1894, and an unsuccessful attempt in 1895-1897 to construct a \$1 million capitol that the young state could not afford.

The city of Helena had served as capital for the territory since 1875. Just over one decade old at that time, the former gold camp of Last Chance Gulch had already transformed itself into the territory's banking center by 1870. Surviving the test of the mid-1890s depression, the city began to grow outward from the nucleus of its gold-rich gulch. When the capitol site was selected, it lay beyond the more developed sections of the city.

With Butte copper king William A. Clark as its champion, Helena achieved victory in the capital contest of 1894, decided by statewide ballot. Clark's personal feud with rival copper baron Marcus Daly of Anaconda who wanted the capital in the town he had built, produced legendary civic rivalry. One expression was in the Helena Victory Parade, in which one float boldly featured

a huge statue of the Goddess of Liberty—representing Helena—with her foot resting on the head of a giant anaconda. Helena's triumph was recalled six years later, when a statue of Liberty was placed on the crown of the capitol's copper-sheathed dome. The celebration of Liberty and other democratic ideals was a traditional function of symbol-laden capitols in America. Visible from afar, the dome itself served as a reminder of the importance of the mining industry—once dominated by Clark and Daly—to Montana's economy and political culture.

Optimism about the state's future led the 1895 legislature to enact laws authorizing a \$1 million capitol, its design to be chosen in a nationwide architectural competition. Cash prizes were awarded and a design selected before funding problems were understood to be insurmountable. To make matters worse, scandal erupted when it was discovered that the capitol commissioners themselves planned to defraud the state of substantial portions of the building's cost. Investigations were conducted in time to prevent the graft, replace the commissioners, and begin anew. In response to Democratic-Populist Governor Robert Burns Smith's plea for application of the "pruning knife" to state government, the 1897 legislature then authorized a more modest statehouse. The completed, furnished building, located on its donated parcel of land, cost approximately \$485,000—less than half the price of the abandoned design.

In 1898, Charles Emlen Bell and John Hackett Kent of Council Bluffs, Iowa, were selected as capitol architects on the condition that they relocate in Helena to fulfill a legislative provision requiring selection of a Montana architect. Although denounced by the state's resident architects, the selection proved to be a fortunate one, resulting in a handsome design that was promptly

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realized. After a festive cornerstone-laying ceremony on Independence Day, 1899, Bell and Kent's "Greek Ionic" neoclassical capitol was constructed, faced in sandstone from a Columbus, Montana quarry. The building was dedicated with much appreciative fanfare on July 4, 1902.

After its first decade, the capitol was enlarged (1909-1912) to accommodate the growing executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. East and west wing additions were designed by New York architect Frank M. Andrews in association with Montanans John G. Link and Charles S. Haire. The much-debated selection of stone for facing the wings required a special session of the legislature, which chose Jefferson County granite. A good match for the Columbus sandstone used in the original building, the granite had the added advantage of durability.

The state capitol is a structure with several historical dimensions. Interwoven with Montana's development as a state, the building's origins recall people and practices from another age. These early Montanans, conscious of their place in the progression of time, chose architecture and art that described a remote classical past as well as the passing era of the frontier. Yet they focused optimistically on the future as well. Today the capitol is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and continues to be associated with events significant to the citizens and government of Montana.

### SELF-GUIDED TOUR

The instructions in bold-face type like this will guide you through the building from the Rotunda, where you are now, back again to this spot. Alternate instructions are available, here at this table, for those who cannot use the stairs.

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### ROTUNDA

The main colonnaded portico of the capitol leads into an ornate, dome-covered rotunda where the designs of architects Bell & Kent and interior decorators F. Pedretti's Sons merge to suggest a 19th century opera house setting. The theatrical "history pageant," which artist Charles Pedretti and his assistants painted in murals throughout the building, begins here with early occupants of Montana Territory. Some characters in this historical drama are introduced in vignettes around the base of the dome: a miner, modelled after Henry Edgar, who was one of the discoverers of gold at Alder Gulch near Virginia City; a trapper, in the tradition of Jim Bridger, the mountain man; a cowboy, pictured as those who rode Montana's ranges were popularly imagined; and an Indian, inspired by the Salish leader Chief Charlot, who peacefully resisted removal of his people to a reservation.

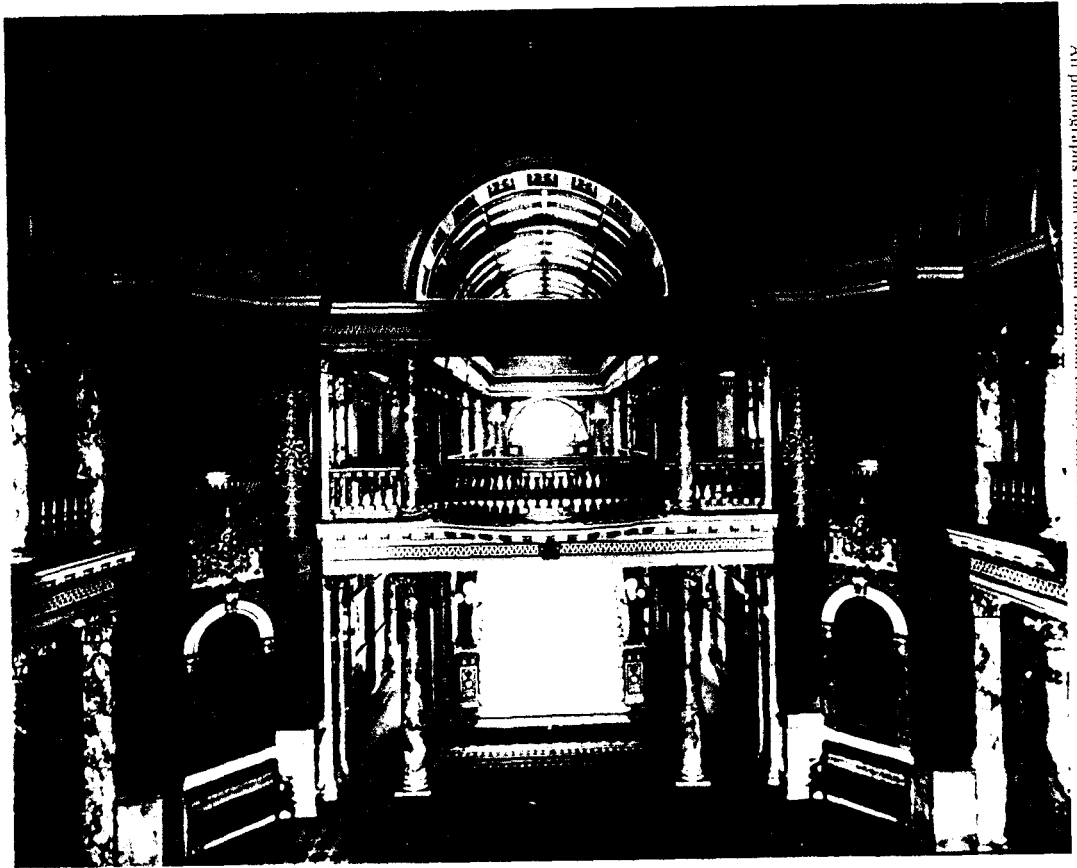
To the right of the painting of the Indian, on the third or gallery level of the rotunda, is a painting by San Francisco artist Amedee Joullin, *The Driving of the Golden Spike*. The 1883 joining of east to west by the transcontinental Northern Pacific railroad passing through Montana was an event rivalling statehood itself in significance to the state's economic development. In the painting, Henry Villard, president of the Northern Pacific, is portrayed in company with President Ulysses S. Grant, a delegation of Crow Indians, and other celebrants at the ceremony that put Gold Creek, Montana, briefly into the national spotlight.

Portrait busts of nationally prominent U. S. Senators Thomas J. Walsh, Burton K. Wheeler, and Joseph M. Dixon (who also served as governor for one term) occupy niches in the corners of the Rotunda. Opposite the main entrance, in the grand stair hall, is a statue of Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to be elected to

## Rotunda

The rotunda as it originally appeared in 1902 featured a barrel vault skylight sheltering the grand stairway. A special evening reception was held at dedication time for the purpose of displaying the "illumination" of the rotunda.

Electric light fixtures adorned the columns, the newel posts and the outer rim of the vault. Glass block floor tiles known as "Hyatt lights" reflected electric light by night and natural light by day. Deep red walls provided a dramatic background for the abundant ornamentation.



All photographs from Montana Historical Society, unless otherwise indicated.

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the U. S. Congress, and the only member of Congress to vote against both world wars.

Ascend the grand stairway, turn left and mount the nearby flight of stairs. Your next stop will be the Supreme Court, WHERE COURT MIGHT BE IN SESSION. If that is the case, you are welcome to enter but it is hoped you will do so silently. Enter the door marked 411, and you are in the Supreme Court Gallery.

## SUPREME COURT

The Montana Supreme Court consists of seven justices, who decide themselves whether five justices or all seven will hear a particular case. In addition to seating five justices, the raised platform, or *dais*, can accommodate a marshal and a clerk. Being a court of appeals, the Supreme Court does not utilize a jury, and typically the table facing the bench seats two attorneys: one for the appellant, another for the respondent. Their presentations are limited to set times which are indicated by light signals installed at the podium.

The skylit chamber has changed little since the 1912 additions necessitated removing the Senate to its present location on the opposite side of the rotunda, and installing in its place the Supreme Court. At that time, space was also provided for an adjoining law library. The scagliola columns in the apse-shaped Supreme Court chamber are colored to resemble Italian marble. A wainscot of Tennessee marble rises to meet the columns at their base. The stained glass skylight and the interior decorations are largely original, as is the mahogany furniture. A centrally placed bronze plaque honors Chief Justice Theodore Brantly, who served on the court from 1899 until 1922.

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Here the "history pageant" murals, by Charles Pedretti, from left to right, represent: the "Gates of the Mountains," a scene on the Missouri River, located north of Helena, and named by explorers Lewis and Clark; a wagon train under attack by Indians, a popular subject of frontier conflict; President Benjamin Harrison and Secretary of State James G. Blaine accepting Montana's constitution and thus approving statehood on November 8, 1889; Meriwether Lewis and party viewing the Rocky Mountains for the first time; President Grover Cleveland, Secretary of State Thomas Bayard and territorial delegate (later first governor) Joseph K. Toole (standing) at the February 22, 1889, signing of the Enabling Act that allowed Montana to begin the final steps towards statehood; a buffalo chase, showing Indian hunters at the height of their prosperity and freedom; and a symbolic picture of the Indian, confronted by the passing of the buffalo, and by the arrival of a new way of life—represented by a railroad train.

Exit the Supreme Court through the same door you used in entering. Turn right and follow the hallway around two sides of the Rotunda, which can be viewed through metal grills along the corridor. Enter the door straight ahead. This takes you to the rear of the Gallery of the Senate.

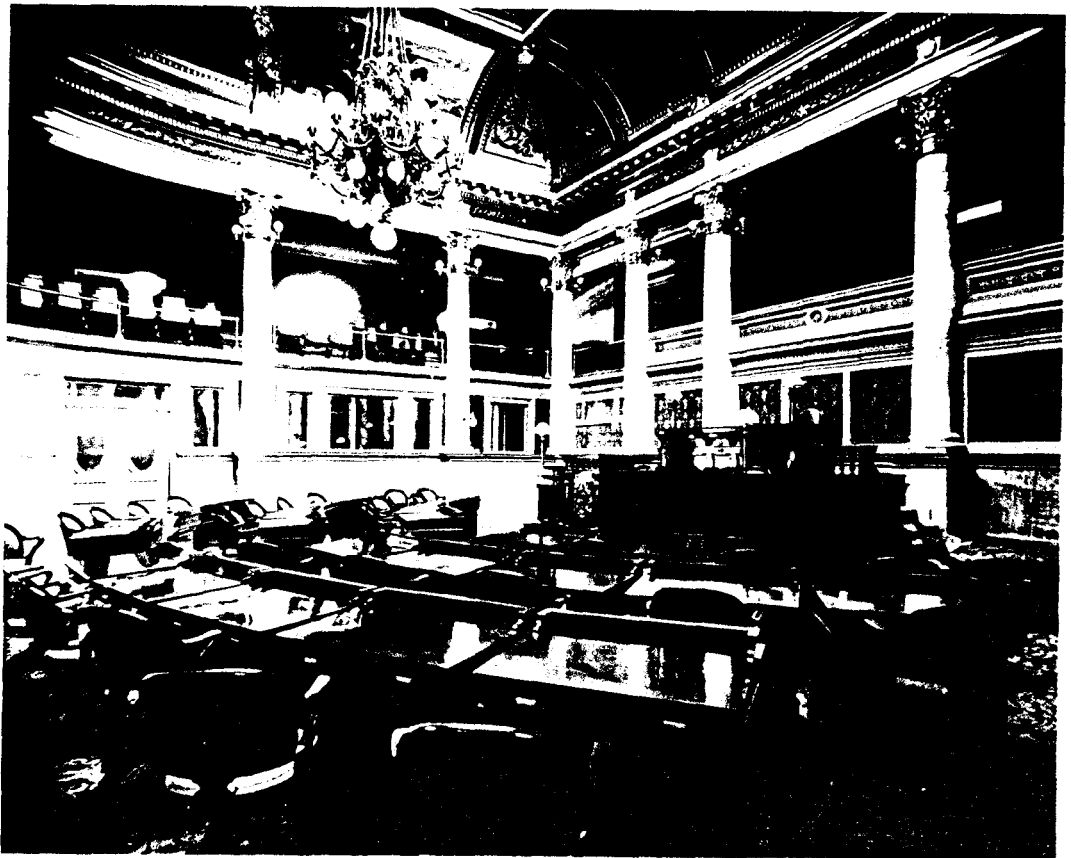
## SENATE

The Montana Senate consists of fifty senators, elected for four-year terms. The Democrats are seated on the right, the Republicans on the left. The President of the Senate occupies the chair at the head of the rostrum, with legislative staff members seated in the half-circle immediately beneath the presiding officer's chair. The seating at the base of the rostrum accommodates

### Supreme Court

The Supreme Court chamber is seen here as it was when it served as the Senate, before 1912.

Except for the removal of the senators' desks and chairs, the rostrum and the chandelier, the chamber has changed little. Tennessee marble wainscoting, scagliola columns, stained glass skylight and mural paintings of Charles Pedretti are among the significant features that remain.



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Inset photo courtesy Crossman-Whitney-Griffin PC, Architects



### Senate

In 1912 the House of Representatives moved to more spacious quarters in the new west wing, leaving their chamber for the Senate. Today's modernized Senate (small inset photo) shows little resemblance to the chamber's original appearance—as seen in this pre-1912 photo—although murals, decorations and mouldings around the ceiling area remain.

## House of Representatives

The 1912 wing additions included the House of Representatives chamber, the largest room in the capitol. Now accommodating 100 representatives, the chamber remains as it was built, except for minor changes such as the installation of an electronic voting system. Vermont marble columns set off the large central space from the side aisles, which are lined with windows. Additional natural light is provided by the decorative stained glass skylight.



pages, who act as messengers for the senators. To summon a page, or to vote, the senators press the appropriate button on the box located on each desk. Votes are registered electronically and appear in lights on the large board at your eye level to the front of the chamber.

Substantially altered by a mid-1960s renovation and remodeling project, the Senate chamber is original only above the gilt capitals, or tops, of the now-covered columns. The skylight, however, has been replaced by electric light fixtures. The original mahogany desks have been replaced, but the rostrum, also mahogany, is original when it was housed in the chamber now occupied by the Supreme Court. The painting immediately above the rostrum is a reproduction of the Charles M. Russell painting, *When the Land Belonged to God*, which for many years was displayed at the Montana Club in downtown Helena. The original is now on view at the Montana Historical Society, located across Roberts Street from the capitol.

Charles Pedretti and his assistants painted the murals in the Senate, covering a range of pre-statehood themes including the Louisiana Purchase, by which the United States obtained land that would include Montana. From left to right (as you face the front of the chamber, and beginning at left rear) the subjects are as follows: Lewis and Clark at Three Forks, accompanied by the Shoshone guide Sacajawea and Clark's black slave York; Andrew Dawson and Pierre Chouteau, two early fur traders, at Old Fort Benton; an imagined view of the Louisiana Purchase transaction, including portraits of Thomas Jefferson seated left, and Napoleon Bonaparte, seated right, whose negotiators James Monroe, Robert Livingston and Marquis de Barbe-Marbois (pictured in the center) were the only persons who *actually* met to effect the purchase; gold prospectors at Nelson Gulch, near Helena; Fathers Ravalli and De Smet, missionaries who worked

among the Flathead Indians at St. Mary's Mission which Father De Smet established in 1841. Walk down either side gallery to view the final mural, Lt. Col. George A. Custer's death at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876.

Now enter the hall on the far side of the Senate chamber, which passes behind the large vote board. Exit through the door in the center of this hall, and walk straight ahead through the corridor and up the small flight of carpeted stairs.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Montana House of Representatives consists of one hundred representatives, elected to two-year terms. Because the Montana Legislature meets every two years, members must be re-elected for each session in which they serve. As in the Senate, the Democrats sit on the right and the Republicans on the left. The Speaker of the House is the presiding officer, and occupies the position at the head of the rostrum, with legislative staff at the next level below. Pages, who are seated encircling the rostrum, are summoned by lights controlled at each desk. Those controls also connect to the electronic voting system which registers each representative's vote on the boards at the front corners of the chamber.

The House of Representatives chamber occupies the 1912 west wing addition designed by Frank M. Andrews of New York, in association with Montana architects Link & Haire. The oak rostrum predates the other furnishings by a decade, being part of the original furnishings from the House of Representatives' former location in the 1902 structure. The remaining furnishings and decorations are original to the 1912 design, including Vermont marble wainscoting and columns, stained glass skylight





*Lewis and Clark Meeting the Flathead Indians at Ross' Hole*, by Charles M. Russell, portrays a scene which took place on September 4, 1805, when the Lewis and Clark expedition reached the Sula Basin area near Missoula, on their return journey through Montana. The mural occupies a prominent place above the Speaker's platform at the front of the House of Representatives chamber. Extensive conservation work was completed during the sixties and seventies, to protect, preserve and repair the mural.

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(some panels removed), and oak desks and chairs. Dominating the large chamber is Charles M. Russell's mural, *Lewis and Clark Meeting the Flathead Indians at Ross' Hole*, portraying the scene from September 4, 1805, near the headwaters of the Bitterroot River. The work was commissioned in 1911 by Governor Norris and the Board of Examiners (acting as a capitol commission) for a nominal price of \$5,000. This now priceless mural is considered by modern critics to be Russell's masterpiece. Its subject, chosen by Russell with the Board's approval, re-emphasizes the importance of the Lewis and Clark theme to the state-house "history pageant."

Exit through the same door entered, descend 3 steps, turn right to descend stairway. At the next level down (third floor), enter the corridor, and turn left to enter the Lobby of the House of Representatives. Note: When the Legislature is in session, the House Lobby is not open for touring. In that case, continue on down the stairs.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOBBY

The lobby of the House of Representatives houses six murals by Montana artist Edgar S. Paxson, whose work was commissioned and executed in 1911 and 1912, at the same time as the Russell mural in the House chamber. The subjects chosen by Paxson also feature the Lewis and Clark expedition, although other themes such as Indians, exploration and settlement are included. The murals are: *After the Whiteman's Book*, representing a group of Flathead Indians en route to St. Louis for the purpose of obtaining the Bible; *The Border Land*, showing a confrontation between white settlers and Indians; *Lewis and Clark at Three Forks*, portraying the exploring party at the headwaters

of the Missouri River; *Lewis at Black Eagle Falls*, depicting Captain Lewis and Sergeant Patrick Gass on June 13, 1805, at the north bluff of the falls (near present-day Great Falls); *Pierre de la Verendrye*, an early French-Canadian explorer who may have been the first white man in Montana, in the 1740s; and *Surrender of Chief Joseph*, Nez Perce leader, to General Nelson Miles in 1877, after the Nez Perce attempted to flee to Canada rather than accept a reservation.

Return to the stairway you used to reach this level and descend to the next level down. In this hallway to your right, you will pass through the Gallery of Outstanding Montanans on your way back to the Rotunda, where the tour began.

When no function is taking place in the Reception Room, visitors may proceed to the governor's wing at the end of the corridor opposite the Gallery of Outstanding Montanans. The receptionist will direct you to the entrance, which is beyond the doorway marked "Office of the Governor."

## GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM

The Governor's Reception Room was designed as an Elizabethan "period room" by Frank Mills Andrews in 1912. Paneled in dark oak, the room is divided into three main sections with side aisles. The spatial division is accomplished by fluted oak columns, whose capitals are hand-carved. Fireplaces of Vermont marble were intentionally designed to serve as nonfunctioning ornaments at either end of the long room. To the right of the fireplace at your left (as you enter) is a small, almost hidden door leading to the governor's private office. At the opposite, far end of the room, a portrait of Governor Toole, first State governor of Montana, hangs above the fireplace. The ceiling is in

LEWIS AND CLARK AT THREE-FORKS



*Lewis and Clark at Three Forks.* by Edgar S. Paxson, portrays Meriwether Lewis (center) and William Clark (left of center) with imagined portraits of Sacajawea, Clark's black slave York and two other expedition members. They reached Three Forks, the headwaters of the Missouri River, on August 17, 1805, westward bound for the Pacific Ocean.

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Tudor design, hand-painted and hung with "antique" finish silver plate chandeliers, which match the wall sconces and the fireplace andirons and tools. Most of the furnishings in the room are original. The brass doorknobs are decorated in detailed relief with the great seal of the state of Montana.

## EXTERIOR STATUES

**Thomas Francis Meagher** (pronounced Mar) appears in the equestrian statue in front of the capitol. An Irish revolutionary of the mid-19th century, he emigrated to the United States where he distinguished himself as general of the Irish Brigade in the Civil War. The flamboyant Meagher, appointed Secretary of Montana Territory in 1865, twice served as Acting Governor—once attempting to guide the new territory to statehood even though it didn't yet have the population to qualify. Meagher apparently drowned in the Missouri River at Fort Benton in 1867, and the circumstances of his death are still a mystery. His statue was given by the people of Montana, especially the large population of Irish descent, in 1905.

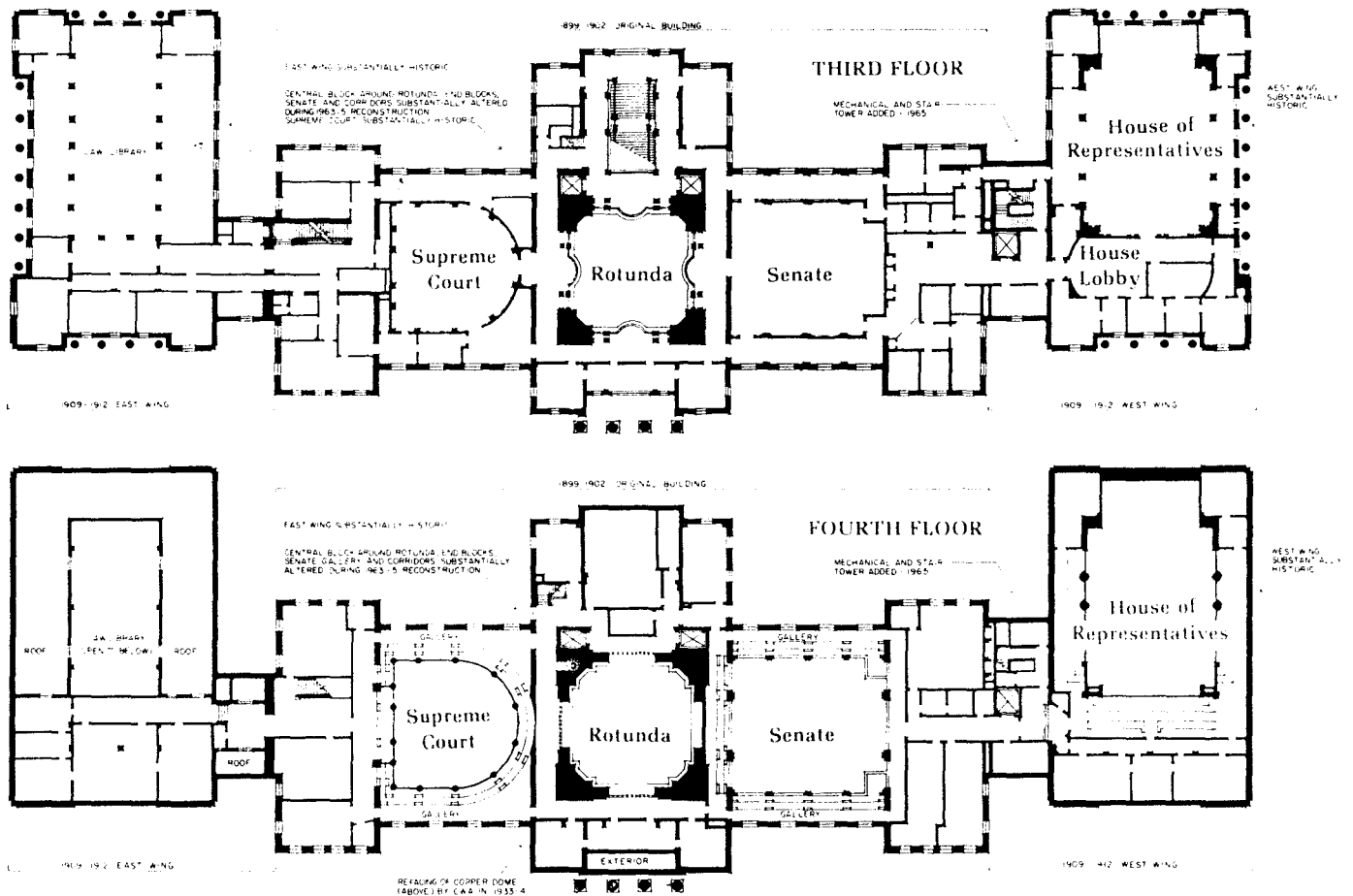
**Wilbur Fisk Sanders** is represented by the larger-than-life statue facing the back, ground-floor entrance. Active in Montana politics from the early territorial days, he was one of the first two U. S. Senators when Montana achieved statehood. Sanders, a lawyer, was a fearless Vigilante leader in Virginia City—once acting as prosecutor in an outdoor "miner's court" where friends of the defendant kept Sanders within their gunshots. The inscribed quotation, "Men, do your duty," was Sanders' charge to Vigilantes preparing to hang convicted highwaymen.



The Governor's Reception Room incorporates the bitterroot blossom, Montana's state flower, in its trefoiled ceiling design.



At left, the statue honoring *Thomas Meagher*, which was dedicated on July 4, 1905. At right, the statue of *Wilbur Fisk Sanders* as it appeared upon dedication in 1913, located then in the rotunda.



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MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AGENCY 5117

Additional Modifications:

1. Secretarial Pool  
Program (01) Administration

	<u>General Fund</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
FTE	1.00	1.00
<u>Costs:</u>		
Personal Services	14,380	14,413
Operations	420	445
Equipment	<u>1,800</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	16,600	14,858
Biennium Totals		\$31,458

Purpose:

Funds in the amount of \$31,458 for the biennium to fund 1 FTE as a secretarial pool for the entire Society.

The Montana Historical Society is making efforts not to expand or provide additional services, but rather to address long standing problems. One of these problems is a lack of clerical or support staff for the professional staff of the Society. The Society has 41.75 full-time equivalent staff of which only 2.38 are classified as secretarial staff. The Society has reached the point in growth where additional clerical assistance is a necessity. In most programs clerical duties are being performed by professional staff, which means that relatively high paid time is being wasted.

We are requesting 1 FTE for a secretarial pool to be set up in the Administration program. This position would be the most efficient method of providing a service to the Society as a whole. Not all programs have consistent need for on-going clerical/secretarial services, but all programs do need the service available when necessary. A secretarial pool would free the professional staff's time for the work where their expertise and skill is needed.

2. Conservator  
Program (07) Archives

	<u>General Fund</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
FTE	1.00	1.00
<u>Costs:</u>		
Personal Services	25,989	25,983
Operations	5,000	5,618
Equipment	5,500	600
Totals	<u>36,489</u>	<u>32,201</u>
Biennium Total		\$68,690

Purpose:

Since 1865, the Montana Historical Society has acquired a wealth of books, manuscripts, and artifacts which are the documentation and representation of Montana's past. Today, these collections are housed in thousands of square feet of storage space and number in the hundreds of thousands of items. While priceless in a historical sense and difficult if not impossible to replace, these items do have a market value which probably totals in excess of ten million dollars. Yet, beyond the most remedial of care, nothing has been done to insure their survival and good condition. This has been true for two reasons: lack of funds and lack of expertise.

Because of the size and complexity of the collections presently owned by the Society, it would be prohibitively expensive and extremely inefficient to rely on outside conservation services to care for the damaged and endangered items owned by the Library, Museum and Archives. If tangible remains of Montana's historic past are to survive, efforts at conservation must be undertaken. In most historical collections in Montana major deterioration is taking place. Use, environmental conditions, and intrinsic characteristics have combined in a destructive process which can only be halted by the attentions of a trained conservator.

This position would be mainly responsible for work with Society collections, it would also be necessary that this expertise be available to other public collecting institutions in the state.

3. Library Reshelver/File Clerk  
Program (02) Library

	<u>General Fund</u>	
	<u>FY 1984</u>	<u>FY 1985</u>
FTE	.45	.45
<u>Costs:</u>		
Personal Services	5,039	5,030
Biennium Total		10,069

Purpose:

Funds in the amount of \$10,069 for the biennium to fund a part-time file clerk in the Library.

The principal duties are the reshelving of a wide variety of library materials, and keeping the stack area and materials clean and dusted. The volume of reshelving work is substantial, averaging some 600 items of all sorts each week, and occupying 8 to 10 hours of time. Reshelving is, for the most part, a simple-enough process, but must be done frequently and accurately to avoid wasting staff time searching for material requested which has not been returned to its proper place. Without this position, much higher paid clerical, paraprofessional and professional staff must divert time from more complex and appropriate duties to perform the shelving, which is essential, while the maintenance of the stack area, a security area into which regular contracted janitorial workers do not go, can be done only sporadically, and materials are consequently not kept as free of dust as they should be to forestall long-range damage and deterioration.