

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, on February 22, 1991,
at 3:00 P. M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Chet Blaylock, Chairman (D)
Harry Fritz, Vice Chairman (D)
Robert Brown (R)
Bill Farrell (R)
H.W. Hammond (R)
Dennis Nathe (R)
Dick Pinsoneault (D)
Mignon Waterman (D)
Bill Yellowtail (D)

Staff Present: Eddy McClure (Legislative Council).

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

HEARING ON SJR 20

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Bill Yellowtail, District 50, presented SJR 20, an act which would encourage the Congress to appropriate money to establish a permanent monument at the site of the Battle of the Little Big Horn which is near Crow Agency, Montana.

Senator Yellowtail said that he felt that history has been distorted over the years regarding the Battle of the Little Big Horn and that this national park is the only one whose title and monument are a tribute to the loser. The speaker said that some time ago a group of Native American people came to the battlefield marching up the hill with their own "rather colorful, welded steel plaque" which they had made and they set it in cement at the site of the mass grave.

He said at that time the park service saw fit to take this matter seriously and the Congress is now considering the placing of a permanent national monument recognizing the Native American people who participated in the battle. The Congress spent some time in their previous session working on this matter; but according to the speaker, it has been slow and there has been some confusion in the Congress regarding the situation which would involve three Indian tribes.

Also at issue is the fact that the title of the place needs to be changed. It is presently the Custer Battlefield National Monument which the sponsor felt was entirely misdirected. He said that it really ought to be changed to The Little Big Horn National Monument. He felt that re-naming would be sort of a non-partisan, mutual title that is at least not a monument to the loser and certainly is not a slap in the face to the Native American people whose descendants are still very concerned about this matter. Senator Yellowtail said that SJR 20 is to encourage Congress to continue on with their plans for the monument.

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Pinsoneault asked if there was a Native American leader who stood out at that battle. Senators Yellowtail and Fritz gave the names of several chiefs who were leaders at that time--some of whom were also present in the battle: Sitting Bull, Red Cloud, Crazy Horse and Two Moon.

There was discussion regarding the part that several of the Indian tribes played in the battle including Curly, a Crow Indian who worked as a scout, and the Crow Tribe (under the leadership of Chief Plenty Coups) who apparently opted to side with the U. S. Cavalry at that particular time in history.

Also some discussion regarding the Crow Indians' recommendation to General Custer to wait for reinforcements and the general's motive in attacking the Indians when he did.

Senator Nathe asked if this resolution has the full support of the Sioux and the Cheyenne Indian tribes. Senator Yellowtail said yes and if there had been a little more notice, Native American from the Custer Battlefield Association would have come to address the committee regarding this matter.

Senator Fritz said that the resolution did not say anything about increasing the size of the monument. He asked if that was a controversial issue. Senator Yellowtail said that the Custer Battlefield Association, a private organization, has been working to raise private money to acquire land around the present territory because the battle moved over a larger area. The site where the monument now stands is limited but plans are to expand the site and make certain that it can be preserved and then build a loop road so that one can follow the development in proper chronological order.

Senator Fritz added that the major part of the battle was on the west side of the river and that is not included in the monument. Senator Yellowtail said that is correct.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 20

Motion:

SENATOR BOB BROWM MOVED that SJR 20 DO PASS. Unanimous vote.
MOTION CARRIED.

HEARING ON SJR 21

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Gene Thayer, Senate District 19, presented SJR 21, an act urging the United States Congress to fully fund completion of the Lewis and Clark National Trail Interpretative Center.

The Lewis and Clark Honor Guard, part of the Portage Route Chapter, had come by invitation to present the flag ceremony at the Senate. The members were also present for the Education and Cultural Resource Hearing on SJR 21.

Proponents' Testimony:

The following persons testified in support of SJR 21:

Bob Bivens, Steering Committee of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Mike Labriola, Great Falls Chamber of Commerce and the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard.

James Parker Shield, Steering Committee of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Arnie Olsen, Fish, Montana State Department of Wildlife and Parks Division.

Marsha Staigimiller, Steering Committee of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

The Interpretive Center will be an addition to Giant Springs and Heritage Parks, a project undertaken in 1983. It has been funded by both federal and state agencies. The area of Giant Springs was discovered by Captain William Clark in June, 1805. The planned Lewis and Clark Trail Interpretive Center will be located on the bluffs of the Missouri River near the site where the 33 member Lewis and Clark expedition encamped and portaged its men, equipment and supplies.

See Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Thayer closed the hearing by expressing his appreciation to those who had come to present information about the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center to be located at Great Falls. He also thanked the Education Committee for the hearing and urged their support in voting for the Interpretive Center.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 21

Motion:

SENATOR BOB BROWN MOVED that SJR 21 DO PASS. Vote was unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

HEARING ON SB 456

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Bill Yellowtail, Senate District 50, presented SB 456, an act to remove the limitation on school district trustees for the issuance of short-term obligations to the Board of Investments.

See minutes of 2-20-91 for testimony regarding Pryor School.

Proponents' Testimony:

Persons testifying in support of SB 456:

David Ewer, Montana State Board of Investments.

Bruce Moerer, Montana School Board Association.

Chip Erdman, Montana Rural Education Association.

Eric Feavor, Montana Education Association.

Questions and Discussion by committee members:

Chairman Blaylock asked David Ewer if he thought the Board of Investments would want to add a "sunset clause" to SB 456. There was some discussion regarding whether the committee would want to add such a clause to the bill. A "sunset" clause was not added to SB 456.

Senator Waterman asked the amount of the proposed loan to Pryor School (\$125,000 over a 5 year period of time.)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 456

Motion:

SENATOR FRITZ MOVED that SB 456 DO PASS. Vote was eight aye; one no. (Waterman) MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 5:00 P. M.

Chet Blaylock

SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, Chairman

Betsy Clark

BETSY CLARK, Secretary

CB/bc

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
February 22, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Education and Cultural Resources having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 456 (first reading copy - white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 456 be amended and as so amended do pass:

1. Page 2, line 1.

Following: "(4)"

Insert: ", including the payment of settlements of legal claims, judgments, or, with the approval of the board of public education on recommendation of the office of public instruction, the retirement of lawfully issued registered warrants"

Signed: _____

Chet Blaylock
Chet Blaylock, Chairman

SB 2-22-91
And. Coord.

SB 2-22-91
Sec. of Senate

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Exhibits 1-3 consist of 2 pamphlets and one 20-page study on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. The originals are stored at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59601. (Phone 406-444-4775)

LEWIS AND CLARK



NATIONAL HISTORIC
TRAIL INTERPRETIVE
CENTER • MONTANA

SENATE EDUCATION

LEWIS AND CLARK

DATE

SERIAL NO.

National Historic Trail
 MO-KS-NE-IA-SD-
 D-MT-ID-WA-OR

National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior



EXHIBIT NO. 2
 DATE 2-22-91
 BILL NO. SJR-21

LEWIS AND CLARK

IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS



THE LEWIS AND CLARK National Historic Trail commemorates one of our nation's grandest journeys of exploration. It is an epic that captures the imagination as much today as it did nearly 200 years ago. A significant segment of the 8000-mile Trail crosses the rugged, though handsome, northern Rocky Mountains.

EXHIBIT NO. 2
 DATE 2-22-91
 BILL NO. SJR-21

National Historic Trail
 MO-KS-NE-IA-SD-
 D-MT-ID-WA-OR

SJR 21
February 22, 1991

Testimony presented by Arnold Olsen
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
to Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is pleased to speak in support of SJR 21.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition and its encounters with American Indian country are an important piece of American and Montana history. This Interpretive Center will be a tremendous addition for the visitors of Giant Springs and Heritage Parks and is a fine example of how federal and state agencies can work together to provide facilities for our guests.

Exhibit 4
DATE 2-22-91
BILL NO. SJR-21

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center

Citizen Steering Committee

Post Office Box 7374
Great Falls, Montana 59406

MEMBERS:

Sydne Abernathy
Giant Springs Heritage
Park Commission

Margaret Adams
Audubon Society

Bob Bivens
Lewis and Clark Trail
Heritage Foundation

Art Dickhoff
Chamber of Commerce

Orville Gray
Cascade County
Historical Society

Richard Martin
Cascade County 89'ers

John Mooney
City-County Planning Office

Michael Sayer
Malmstrom Air Force Base

Skip Seaver
Montana Power Company

James Parker Shield
Native American
Action Council

Marcia Staigmler
Portage Route Chapter
Lewis and Clark Foundation

Dave Todd
Montana Department of Fish,
Wildlife and Parks

TESTIMONY GIVEN BY BOB BIVENS IN SUPPORT OF SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

Introduced by Sen. Gene Thayer

Along the historic 6000 mile Lewis and Clark Trail there is no more significant and historic spot than the Great Falls of the Missouri near where the 33 member expedition encamped and portaged its men, equipment and supplies during the arduous days of Jun13th to July 15th 1805.

From the point where the Portage leaves the river until it rejoins it 18 miles later, the Missouri River forms a long gentle arc. Within the arc lie the five falls and over 360 feet of rise which precluded taking the canoes upriver. It also includes a projected 5.5 mile hiking trail which will connect with the Interpretive Center, Region 4 Headquarters of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, a state fish hatchery, Giant Springs Heritage State Park, 2 Lewis and Clark overlooks, West Bank Park- a registered national historic marker, the Bob Scriver heroic size bronze of Lewis, Clark, York and the dog, Seaman; plus a heck of a lot of good scenery and recreational space such as Broadwater Bay.

At the very center of this arc lies Giant Springs and its shortest river in the world, discovered by Captain William Clark on Jun 18th, 1805. It is here on the bluffs of the Missouri River that the National Lewis and Clark Trail Interpretive Center will be located.

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 5

DATE 2-22-91

FILE NO. STR21

In the words of a noted authority on Lewis and Clark, our own State Senator, Harry Fritz, "All told, the Expedition spent more traveling time and camped more often in Montana than in any other modern state, made its most significant discoveries here, and encountered its greatest dangers. Montana was the geographic and scientific center of the Expedition of Discovery and the written history of the state begins within the Journals of Lewis and Clark."

The Interpretive Center will be of national and international significance. It will not only be on every tourist map published in this country, but it will become a national center of learning. Already, the leading scholars have endorsed it as being centrally located and ideally suited as a depository of the wealth of Lewis and Clark historical material which now resides piece-meal at various locations around the United States. Our Interpretive Center has 423 square feet dedicated to archival space.

The Interpretive Center has been endorsed by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation which is a nationwide association of Lewis and Scholars and Trail Buffs. Great Falls has been designated as the future National Headquarters as well as the future National Archives of this important national organization. Our Interpretive Center has dedicated 215 square feet to headquarters space for the Foundation.

The Interpretive Center is an idea whose time has come. It truly has widespread and heartfelt support by those grassroots Lewis and Clark supporters across the United States who see the the Center as their long-awaited mecca.

I urge you to join in on the fulfillment of a long-standing dream. Join those who know beyond all doubt the Interpretive Center is the right thing to do, now. When it is said and done Montana will have a new jewel in its crown called the National Lewis and Clark Historic Trails Interpretive Center.

Can we count on your support?

**TESTIMONY BY MR. MIKE LABRIOLA,
VICE PRESIDENT OF
GREAT FALLS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION #21
INTRODUCED BY SENATOR GENE THAYER**

A few years ago, the Travel Promotion Division of the Department of Commerce commissioned a study to determine what kind of image Montana had in major population areas that represented potential tourist target markets. We were pleased to learn that Montana had a good image among those who were familiar with our state. Unfortunately, the study also revealed that among many outside our immediate region, Montana was an enigma and had no image at all. Indeed, many seemed to have little idea where Montana is even located.

The Montana Travel Promotion Division, our regional tourism organizations, and our Chambers of Commerce have been working hard to change that, but the competition grows ever more keen.

We need a "niche" in the marketplace that is uniquely our own, and that will bring us national - nay - international attention.

STATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 6
DATE 2-22-91
BILL NO. SJR-21

The epic story of the Corps of Discovery and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center has the potential to be such a "niche" - we have but to seize the opportunity.

Montana historian Clark C. Spence once wrote:

"In Montana history the Lewis and Clark expedition looms large. It spent more time and covered more miles in Montana than any other area.....For modern Montanans it left a proud, fierce spirit of kinship with the greatest of early explorers. Lewis and Clark belong to Montana in a way that they are claimed by no other state." From: Clark C. Spence, Montana, A History, (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1978) Pages 71 & 13.

Much of the original Lewis and Clark Trail in other states is now hidden by the huge reservoirs of the lower Missouri and Columbia rivers. The Lewis and Clark Trail in Montana is still relatively unspoiled and looks much the same as in 1805. Certainly, this provides us with a unique visitor appeal at a time when Americans seem to be growing ever more interested in their own heritage. Moreover, the Lewis and Clark Trail provides that visitor appeal across the entire breadth of our state - not just one small

Ex. 6
22 Feb. 91
5JK 21

area.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center will stand out on thousands of recreational maps and will undoubtedly be noted in countless travel books - and the visitor will come! Last year the small National Park Service Interpretive Center and Fort Clatsop near Astoria, Oregon, received more than 206,000 visitors. The Interpretive Center, which Congress authorized for construction in Great Falls, will be larger, and we believe will have even greater visitor appeal than that at Fort Clatsop.

Some of us have already begun work to cultivate that visitor appeal, as you can see from our dress. I also represent the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard - a group of enthusiasts dedicated to sharing the Lewis and Clark story visually through ceremonies, reenactments, and demonstrations. Our group will form a nucleus of volunteers who will work to support the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center through living history. Among the fifteen performances we already have scheduled between now and September, are three for motorcoach tours originating in West Virginia, Missouri, and Michigan, and a program for a recreational vehicle organization that will bring in members from throughout

the western U.S. and Canada. Two of the bus tours were sold specifically to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail across the U.S. We believe many more will follow and stop to see the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center and other points on the trail across our state.

On behalf of the members of the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, and the enthusiasts of the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard, I urge you to support this resolution and help us to make our dream a reality.

2-22-91

Education

VISITORS' REGISTER

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(Page 1 page prepared statement with Secretary)