

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

September 23, 1983

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held in the Legislative Council Chambers, Room 327, and called to order by Chairman Charles P. Pray at 11:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators: Sen. Collins, Sen. Gill, Sen. Pray

Representatives: Rep. Davis, Rep. Diamond, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Martin

Legislative Officers and Staff:

Sally Diamond - Legislative Administrative Director  
David Silsby - Legislative Research Director  
Helen Ginder - Legislative Assistants Director

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Personnel

Recommendation of the appointment of Haven Whiteside as Assistant Director in the Office of Legislative Assistants was presented to the Council for approval.

MOTION

Rep. Mitchell moved that the recommendation be approved.

Rep. Martin seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Recommendation of the appointment of a committee to search for a new Legislative Finance Officer was submitted to the Council.

MOTION

Rep. Mitchell moved that the recommendation be approved.

Rep. Martin seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Recommendation to establish a position for manager of Information Systems Development in the office of the Legislative Administrative Director.

MOTION

Rep. Mitchell moved that the position be approved.

Rep. Diamond seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Recommendation that John Bailey be appointed to the position of manager of Information Systems Development.

MOTION

Rep. Mitchell moved that the recommendation be approved.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Diamond and carried unanimously.

Recommendation that Helen Ginder, Legislative Assistants Director, be authorized to fill the position vacated by John Bailey.

MOTION

Rep. Mitchell moved that the authorization be approved.

Rep. Martin seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Committee on Allocation of Legislative Space

The committee outlined to the Council the proposed plan for allocation of space on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the State House.

MOTION

Rep. Martin moved that the plan be approved.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A letter from Rodney Scribner, Commissioner of the Department of Finance and Administration, was presented to the Council requesting a \$250 contribution from the legislative account to assist in honoring W. Clark Noble who created the "Lady of Wisdom" which adorns the State House dome.

#### MOTION

Rep. Davis moved that the request be accepted.

Rep. Mitchell seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The motion was offered and carried with the understanding that the Commissioner would submit a new letter clarifying that the \$250 represents a payment on a bill that has never been paid.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### MOTION

Rep. Martin moved that the Council adjourn into an Executive Session for personnel matters.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

#### RECONVENE

The Legislative Council reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Rep. Davis requested that the Department of Transportation and others involved in the purchase of the airplane for the Governor's use be asked to explain to the Council the selection process and, further, that they be asked to explain the state bid process in general.

#### MOTION

Rep. Davis moved that the request be approved.

Sen. Collins seconded the motion and discussion followed.

Discussion centered on whether the Council should become involved in a formal study of the bid process until the Attorney General's opinion had been issued.

MOTION

Rep. Mitchell moved that the request be tabled.

Rep. Martin seconded the motion and discussion followed.

MOTION

Rep. Davis amended his original motion to request that those involved with the State bidding process, including Rod Scribner, Commissioner of Finance and Administration; Stuart Sabeau, State Purchasing Agent; Maple Christie, Bureau of Purchases; George Campbell, Commissioner of Transportation; Graydon Sharpe, State Pilot; and Bob Johnson, Acting Director, Bureau of Aeronautics come before the Legislative Council to discuss the bidding process in general.

The motion was seconded and a 5-2 vote was taken, motion rejected.

MOTION

Rep. Martin moved that the Council study the state's bidding process.

Rep. Mitchell seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION

Rep. Martin moved that the Council meeting be adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.



STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

STATE HOUSE STATION 78  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333  
207-289-3446

September 22, 1983

Senator Charles Pray, Chairman  
Legislative Council  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have asked to meet with you on Friday in order to respectfully request a \$250 contribution from the Legislative account to assist in honoring one of Maine's most noted citizens.

The Committee To Honor W. Clark Noble has requested that the state donate the sum of \$500 to be used toward the purchase and erection of a suitable marker and plaque for the late Mr. Noble's grave. Born in Gardiner, Maine, W. Clark Noble was a world renowned sculptor and artist. He created, and then donated to the state, the "Lady of Wisdom" statue which adorns the State House dome. Mr. Noble is buried in a plot at the Mount Hope Cemetery in South Gardiner. The grave bears no identification recognizing this man except for a funeral director's marker.

Representative Thomas Kilcoyne, Secretary and Treasurer of the Committee to Honor W. Clark Noble, has asked me for advice concerning the most feasible approach to take in order to obtain the requested donation from the state. It is my opinion that if the Council were to provide \$250 the Executive Department would provide the other \$250. As the rationale behind making such a contribution would be so closely tied to Mr. Noble's generous gift to the people of this state, I do not believe that making the contribution which has been requested would be in any way precedent setting. It would seem to me that granting this request to assist in properly recognizing Mr. Noble's works would be an appropriate gesture in view of his legacy to the State of Maine and its citizens.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Warmest personal regards,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Scribner".

Rodney L. Scribner  
Commissioner

RLS/df

COMMITTEE TO HONOR  
W. CLARK NOBLE



Bruce Johnson, *Chairman*  
Thomas Kilcoyne, *Secretary & Treasurer*  
Jody Clark  
Jane Pepin  
Wally Atkins

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Gardiner native, W. Clark Noble, a world reknown sculptor and artist, lies buried in a plot of land at Mt. Hope Cemetary. Sadly, there is no identification recognizing this great man — only a funeral director's marker.

Noble is one of our most distinguished citizens and probably one of the most famous natives of the state of Maine. His works of sculpture are reknown throughout this country and the world.

The sculpture that adorns the state capitol building is just one reflection of his work and his affection for the state of Maine. The state Legislature did not raise the monies to pay Noble for his work of art, he donated the statue, "The Lady of Wisdom" to the state.

To pay tribute to this talented and famous man, a committee to honor him is working to raise a small amount of money to erect a marker and plaque for his grave. Your contribution is solicited to help honor this distinguished Gardiner native.

Sincerely,

Chairman

Please forward your contribution to:

Bruce Johnson  
P.O. Box 44  
So. Gardiner, Maine 04359

or

Thomas A. Kilcoyne  
201 Highland Avenue  
Gardiner, Maine 04345

William Clark Noble  
Maine Born Sculptor  
By Gay M. Grant

Lying in an unmarked grave, here in Maine where he was born and raised, is a man who rose from obscurity to worldwide fame in life, and back to obscurity in death. His name was William Clark Noble, and in his day, he was an internationally recognized and acclaimed sculptor and artist. Time has dimmed the memory of this man whose colorful life and artistic genius began in the town of South Gardiner. Even in his home state, knowledge of the man and his contributions is limited at best. This year, the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of his birth, it seems fitting to revive the story of a man who gave so much to his state and country.

Born February 10, 1858, the son of Clark and Emma Freeman Noble, he was orphaned at age ten months when his father's ship was lost off the New England coast. He was raised on his grandparent's farm in South Gardiner. He was proud of his New England heritage and his ancestors, who were among the original Mayflower voyagers. Noble once said to an interviewer, 'All that the sea left me is in Maine,' as he showed an unfinished marine painting, 'I am painting the graveyard of my forefathers.' That was 1928, ten years before his death. Even at the height of his fame, when he lived in Washington, D.C., he never forgot Maine or South Gardiner.

When Noble learned that no appropriations had been made for a statue to adorn the state's capital dome in 1909, he arranged through the contractor to make a gift of his own time and skill for the project. The copper-repoussé statue, valued then at forty thousand dollars, is no mere copy of a Grecian goddess. A majestic lady, with upraised arm holding a pine torch, symbolic of Maine, she is called "Lady Wisdom,"

and is Noble's vision of Augusta. There was no public honor for Noble's gift, due probably to his making the gift through the contractor and not officially.

Later, when no memorial was being made for the men of South Gardiner who had served their country in World War I, Noble saw to it that one was provided. In the South Gardiner Congregational Church, where Noble had attended Sunday school, is a bas-relief tablet with the names of South Gardiner's war veterans. It bears the inscription "To the men of South Gardiner who served in the World War this work is respectfully dedicated by the sculptor." The bronze tablet is titled "For Humanity." The surviving veterans and the people of the community held a dedicatory exercise and expressed their deep appreciation for the gift. In addition, for one year after the war, Noble donated all the revenue from the sale of his works to a special fund for wounded and disabled veterans of the nation.

As an American sculptor, Noble was outstanding. He never studied abroad as was the custom. Moreover, he never used models, all his statues being of his own creation. For two years he studied anatomy through dissections at medical schools. He knew every muscle and bone in the human body, such that every figure he created was not only artistic but anatomically ideal. When he was commissioned to do a memorial of Major Pierre L'Enfant, the French architect who designed George Washington's capital city, there was no picture of L'Enfant to guide him. Noble studied the man's life and achievements and came to an understanding of his way of life and character. He created an image of L'Enfant that is entirely believable. Noble said in an interview in 1928 "When I got through studying him I know that he could not have looked otherwise than I have represented him." The L'Enfant statue is one of his more famous works.

One can find his creations in Washington, Rhode Island, Europe, New York, and in the Vatican at Rome. The life of the artist himself, however, is more difficult to discover. Described as a "physical contradiction" of the stereotypical visualization of an artist, Noble was a strong and stocky man. He had a forceful personality, and was apparently not modest of his artistic talents. Interviewers of the day found him to be friendly, inviting, and very much a genuine person. He also seems to have had a very stubborn streak.

In his youth, as he was beginning his career as a commercial modeler, the National Modeler's Union was being organized. His refusal to be forced into joining the new union, even to the point of punching a union organizer, prevented him from obtaining further employment in commercial sculpture. Always the practical "Mainer", he used his strong body and became a prize fighter to earn his living. In a year of travelling Vaudeville-style competitions, he met great success and was able to save \$28,000 dollars before a serious illness forced him to quit the ring. What the illness was is not clear, but conceivably it was the beginning of the asthma that years later took his life.

He returned to sculpting, and with backing from friends he opened a school at Newport, Rhode Island, where he maintained a studio for a time. Today the Newport Historical Society has some coins he designed for two Latin American countries, and an example of his commercial art on display. His first success was in 1837, and from then on, he won great acclaim both in America and abroad for his genius. He moved to New York, where he helped organize the National Sculpture Society of New York, and the New York Arts Club. Later, he moved his studio to Washington, D.C., where he lived until his death. This "fashionably dressed" successful artist was apparently held in high esteem in

Washington society, as he was a member of the Congressional Country Club.

One of Clark Noble's fondest dreams was the erection of a monument to "Motherhood" in Washington. For years he had worked on various models for such a project, and when Daisy Calhoun, wife of Senator C.C. Calhoun of South Carolina, came to him with plans to put it all together, he thought his dream would become reality. He worked on models for the memorial, which seemed to change with Mrs. Calhoun's whims. He gradually gave up all other work to concentrate on the project, receiving in payment only 2,000 dollars. Finally, he realized that she had no real intentions of seeing the memorial to actual completion, and was only toying with him for her own ego. Noble broke off the professional association with her and had his attorney arrange a settlement with the Calhouns for the work done.

But the Calhouns had other ideas. They convinced the Justice Department that the Nobles were trying to blackmail them. Based solely on the Calhouns' complaints, suit was brought in court which led to months of terrible publicity, and then weeks of grueling testimony for both Mr. and Mrs. Noble. At the age of 78, the trial and all its unpleasantness was almost too much for him, as Noble reportedly collapsed on the witness stand. After the testimony, the judge ordered the jury to acquit the Nobles for lack of evidence. Such an experience for an ailing artist of 78 must have had such detrimental affects that even an acquittal could not have undone the damage.

It is unfortunate that his obituary, two years later, had to mention the controversy over the "Womanhood of America" monument, without explaining the story. It is sadder still that a dream he had coveted for nearly forty years ended in such bitter disappointment.

A career that began with clay on the banks of a stream in South Gardiner, ended in May of 1938, when Noble died at his home in Washington.

He had won 29 of the 32 artistic competitions he entered, invented two new sculpting techniques, and given of himself and his work to his native state, and to his country.

At his death, a memorial service was held at the South Gardiner Congregational Church. Some South Gardiner residents remember the service and that William Tudor Gardiner, then Governor of Maine, gave the memorial address. He was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, in an unmarked grave. It seems unjust that he should be forgotten, after all that he contributed. His name will never become as famous as it was in his day. It would be appropriate, though, if more people in his native state could look at the statue on their State House dome, and know the name of the man who so unselfishly gave it.

Gay M. Grant  
83 Riverview Drive  
South Gardiner, Maine 04359  
582-5882

Sarah C. Diamond  
Legislative Administrative Director



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
Augusta, Maine 04333

September 30, 1983

TO: Legislative Council Members

RE: FOLLOW UP TO SEPTEMBER 26th COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to the discussion at the Council meeting, Rod Scribner sent over a revised letter regarding the request for a donation to honor W. Clark Noble. A copy of that letter is attached for your information

SCD/efb

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Kelly' with 'efb' written below it.



STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

STATE HOUSE STATION 78  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333  
207-289-3446

September 23, 1983

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Legislative Council  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

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Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Warmest personal regards,

Yours truly,

Handwritten signature of Rodney L. Scribner in cursive.  
Rodney L. Scribner  
Commissioner

RLS/df

Sarah C. Diamond  
Legislative Administrative Director



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
Augusta, Maine 04333

DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
to  
Legislative Council  
September 22, 1983

APPROVAL OF MERIT INCREASES

Office of Legislative Research

Diane King, Legislative Research Technician I  
\$11,534.12 to \$11,935.04

Theresa M. Bilodeau, Legislative Research Technician I  
\$11,935.04 to \$12,359.88

Joan M. Gagne, Legislative Research Technician I  
\$12,359.88 to \$12,854.92

Judy A. O'Brien, Legislative Research Technician II  
\$15,921.36 to \$16,581.76

Brian Blaisdell, Assistant Director  
\$29,385.72 to \$30,821.96

Office of Legislative Assistants

Edward Potter, Legislative Assistant  
\$25,679.16 to \$26,818.48

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Annual Meeting, Data Retrieval Users Group  
Atlanta, Georgia - September 20-22, 1983

	<u>Est. Cost</u>
Polly Gosselin Office of Legislative Research. . . . .	\$550.00