EDGAR SAMUEL PAXSON
1852—1919

"Montana's Unassuming Artist"

EDGAR PAXSON (1852-1919) was a survivor, a celebrated harvesting frontier
adventures, distributing marine images, and an endless companion with
his contemporary, Charlie Russell, to become one of the state's most
renowned artists. His depictions of Montana's natural environs and
unforgettable graphic sensibility,

JOHN IN NEW YORK in 1872, Edgar Samuel Paxson arrived
in Helena, Montana in 1877, in order to make a living.
Paxson pursued a number of occupations, but in doing
always carried with him a sketch pad and pencil.
With these he captured the grit of the frontier life he so

ENTIRELY SELF-TEACHED, Paxson began his professional art career as
a painter of region and statuesque scenes for theatrical performance. By the
early 1890s, Paxson, who had moved to Butte with his family, withdrew
from the hectic world of stage to concentrate on a career in Western art.
Initially, he produced Indian portraits, three of which hung in the Montana
museum at the New York World's Fair (1893).

DURING THE 1890s, Paxson intensified his interest in the American
West and became a frequent participant in the	
Western Art Exposition and other gatherings of artists

LIKE HIS CONTEMPORARY Charlie Russell, Paxson received the
Painting of the Wild West and attempted to record the heroic and
the noble aspects of pioneer life. Up until his death in 1919, Russell remarked:

"I am a painter too, but Paxson has done some things that I
can not do. He was a pioneer and a pioneer painter. Paxson
has gone, but his pictures will not allow us to forget him."

"To view these scenes, walk to the west end of this corridor and take the
elevator or stairs to the third floor. Exit to the left and follow the "Russell
Painting" arrow to the entrance of the House of Representatives."