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## Y12K Clock

*Dec. 30, 1999*

Are you getting a little tired of looking ahead to Y2K? Well, now it's time to look ahead to Y12K! At least that's what a high-powered group of visionaries and business execs hopes for.

They want us to look ahead 10,000 years! And to make their point, they're proposing to build a gigantic contraption inside a mountain on the Utah-Nevada border. News Specialist John Holenhorst has more.

It's a clock. The Clock of the Long Now. And Friday in California the Long Now Foundation plans to complete a small-scale version and start the ticking. Eventually, not far from here, they hope to build a huge, monumental version.

The setting for the world's most astounding clock would be inside limestone cliffs, in a man-made cave 10,000 feet high. And for 10,000 years, the clock would keep on ticking.

It would be perhaps 80-feet tall, it would tick once a year, chime once a century. A cuckoo would come out once every millenium.

But to people who live below Mount Washington, the whole idea seems cuckoo.

*Shirley Bransford/Spring Valley, Nev.: "A DUMB CLOCK ON THE MOUNTAIN THAT NOBODY CAN SEE?"*

*Kolby Goff/Spring Valley, Nev.: "I THINK IT'S USELESS. NO ONE'S GOING TO GO UP THERE JUST TO SEE WHAT TIME IT IS. THEY COULD JUST SEE IT IN THEIR OWN HOUSE."*

But backers of the project say that misses the point. In Sausalito, California they're finishing up an 8-foot working prototype. The clock wouldn't be just another way to tell time.

*Alexander Rose/The Long Now Foundation: "THE FASTEST MOVING THING IN OUR CLOCK IS MOVING ONCE A MINUTE. THE SLOWEST MOVING THING IS TURNING ONCE EVERY 26,000 YEARS."*

The clock is envisioned as a monumental symbol to change our way of thinking, from the here and now, to the far future. People who visit the clock in the cliff might be stirred to a sense of long-term responsibility to the planet and future generations.

*Dave Tilford/Ely, Nev.: "HOPEFULLY TO REMIND US OF LONG-TERM PLANNING AND THINKING."*

Ely Nevada real estate man Dave Tilford has emerged as the local spokesman, but the project's backers are a high-powered, well-heeled bunch: Disney Vice President and computer pioneer Danny Hillis dreamed it up. A driving force is Stewart Brand, creator of the Whole Earth Catalogue. Other key backers: computer guru Esther Dyson, British composer Brian Eno and top execs at several high-tech companies.

*Tilford: "BUT IT'S TO REMIND EACH ONE OF US TO SIT DOWN AND TAKE A MOMENT EVERY DAY TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE... AND TRY TO ENVISION WHAT MAYBE EACH ONE OF US DO TODAY, HOW THAT WOULD IMPACT YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN."*

They also propose building a library inside the mountain. It's meant to be a repository of all the information future generations might need.

Although the prototype clock is supposed to start ticking Friday, don't expect to see the big version anytime soon. Even the backers say it won't be built for many years.

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