PUNS GALORE FOR CANNIBAL

AP

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**DENVER, July 7—**A limestone bust of Alferd Packer was unveiled Tuesday at the State Capitol, placing the 19th century cannibal, for the time being, among many of Colorado's most esteemed statesmen.

The bust, commissioned by the University of Colorado, will be on display near Gov. Richard D. Lamm's office until September, when it will be permanently installed at the university grill at the campus in Boulder. It is called the Alferd E. Packer Memorial Grill.

Preparing to pull the red cloth from the bust, Governor Lamm explained why he had chosen to appear at the unveiling ceremony. ''I must admit to you that I have little appetite to appear before you today,'' he said. ''As I told my staff, I have better things to do than come over and chew the fat with a pack of cannibal lovers. But being an election year, they convinced me that every little bit counts, and in order to protect my flanks, here I am.'' He also said that both he and Packer ''serve our fellow men, each in our own way.''

Before the unveiling, Robert Anderson sang his work, ''The Ballad of Alferd Packer,'' recounting how Packer and five other men broke off from a larger party on the way from Provo, Utah, to Colorado in the winter of 1874, and how only Packer reached a settlement in the spring.

Packer acknowledged eating the bodies of his fellow travelers but said that four of them had been killed by the fifth, and that he killed that man only in self-defense. He was sentenced to 40 years in the penitentiary and was paroled after 16 years.

Mr. Lamm congratulated the sculptor, Tom Miller of Boulder, saying: ''In the immortal words of Alferd Packer, uttered when asked how he liked his fellow man, I say to to you, Tom Miller, 'Well done!' ''