

Mr. Dick Baumen , Chairman
Montana Museum and Arts Foundation

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 3-31-05
SB 73

Dear Mr. Baumen;

I have been informed that there is a movement underway to move the Montana Law Enforcement Museum from Deer Lodge to Great Falls. While I do not reside in Deer Lodge , My family has it's roots there , dating back to about 1880 or thereabouts.

I therefore feel that I have a vested interest in expressing the following opinion.

The Deer Lodge valley is at the very heart of Montana's geographical history. It was here that the first Caucasian baby was born in Montana Territory , and I can recall seeing the cabin where this occurred. It was at the center of the rough and tumble gold rush days and the Vigilante's pursuits of thieves and murderers carried them in and about the area many times.

Deer Lodge was very active during the heyday of the Butte copper mining and the construction and operation of the smelter at Anaconda and it was the location of the nearest hospital when The Big Hole Battle took place between the followers of Chief Joseph and the U.S. Army. Some of the wounded soldiers were transported there by wagon from the battle.

The Montana Territorial Prison was built in Deer Lodge and remained in use as the Montana State Prison until the new prison was built in the latter twentieth century. This is the location of the present Montana Law enforcement museum that was first established at it's location because of all the surrounding history.

I began my law enforcement career as a Montana Highway Patrolman in 1958 . I remained with the patrol for 20 years , before accepting a position as Missoula County Under sheriff in 1978. I served in that position for 6 years and then served as Missoula County Sheriff for an additional six years. During that period of time I saw many events occur that had a large impact on the people of Montana .To name a few , I recall the earthquake that formed Quake Lake , The riot at the old prison in Deer Lodge and the establishment of the Law Enforcement Museum at the old territorial prison. Because of my many years of involvement with these type of happenings I feel qualified to state that the museum should remain where it HAS ALWAYS BEEN since it's inception. Because of its location the museum draws many visitors that it would not if it were to be moved.

I strongly urge the people that will make this decision NOT TO MESS WITH HISTORY !!!!! It belongs there----leave it there !!!

Sincerely;

Daniel J. Magone

Dan Magone
Missoula County Sheriff-Retired
572 Diamond Road
Superior , Mt. 59872