



POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

Montana Auto Museum • Old Montana Prison • Frontier Montana Museum • Yesterday's Playthings • Powell County Museum

March 30, 2005

2005 Legislative Session
House Committee on Administration
Helena, MT 59602

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3-31-05
SB 73

Re: Senate Bill 73, Removal of items from the Montana Law Enforcement Museum

Chair and Committee Members:

As Curator of the Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation (PCMAF), I have been responsible for identification, interpretation, preservation and presentation of artifacts in the Old Prison Museums for the past 13 years. I wish to address concerns regarding documentation, ownership of inventory and de-accessioning practice and procedure for the proposed relocation of artifacts from the Montana Law Enforcement Museum (MLEM).

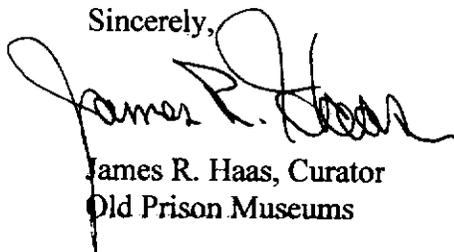
Any inventory should be done by a seasoned museum professional; be that person a Curator, Collections Management Specialist, or Registrar. The qualifications and abilities of this individual should be without reproach, and include documented experience with a variety of museum artifacts.

I recommend and endorse oversight by the Montana Historical Society. If that Society cannot perform the duties, I would suggest contacting the American Association of Museums, Technical Information Support Group to obtain a list of professionals qualified to complete the MLEM inventory.

To drive the point home, I might suggest that there are health professionals who might be able to locate your gall bladder and maybe even diagnose gall stones, but would you want any other than a seasoned physician performing the removal surgery. I do not find this example to be an oversimplification of the process we discuss today.

There is the need for the inventory of the MLEM to be done correctly the first time. This inventory must include all the items that were removed by MLEM staff on November 16, 2004 without documentation. This represents the minimum stewardship responsibility to those individuals who have loaned, donated, gifted or otherwise given artifacts to the MLEM. These individuals and/or agencies have certain vested rights to know the disposition and security of their artifacts, regardless of the situation; museum move or not.

Sincerely,



James R. Haas, Curator
Old Prison Museums

March 18, 2005

Jerry L. McGee
221 Breckenridge
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Mr. McGee:

It is my understanding that you have a copy of the letter I wrote to John O'Donnell (Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation), regarding the artifacts of my father that were loaned to the Law Enforcement Museum in 1993/1994.

I am very anxious to get an answer back from anyone associated with the Museum. My father, Michael T. Morris, was Police Chief in Anaconda for over twenty years and his belongings are very precious to our family. I had loaned these to the Museum when Terry Tyler was living in Anaconda because I thought they would always be on display in Deer Lodge. In Deer Lodge, my father's grandson, and five great-grandsons could visit the Museum and view these possessions. I did not think that they would ever be moved. It never crossed my mind that the artifacts "on loan" would be moved from Deer Lodge without anyone letting me know.

Both my mother and myself had many visits with Terry Tyler regarding this issue. I have a very detailed receipt from Mr. Tyler listing all the items and the "On Loan Donation". Mr. Tyler assured me that I could retrieve my belongings at any time.

Being the plan to move the Museum is in process, I would like my belongings returned to me as soon as possible. I believe my father would like to see his grandson and great grandson's have these to always remember him by.

I would ask that someone get in touch with me to let me know that status of this move and when I can pick up my belongings.

Most Sincerely,



Mary Pat Brown

1010 Idaho St

Deer Lodge, Mt. 59722 406 846 1176

CC:

Terry Tyler

✓ John O'Donnell

Knight, Dahood, Everett & Seavers

Attorneys at Law

February 1, 2005

*Powell County Memorial Arts Foundation
Dick Bauman
1106 Main Street
Deer Lodge, Mt. 59722*

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

It is with great alarm I am writing this letter. After reading several articles regarding moving the Law Enforcement Museum out of Deer Lodge I would like to claim the items I have donated to the Museum on LOAN. These items were donated on loan in 1994/1995 to Terry Tyler.

At that time I had discussed in great detail the importance of my father, Chief Michael T Morris' belongings being returned to my family should the Museum ever leave Deer Lodge. To date, I have not been notified that the Museum is planning on moving out of our city. I am in a panic that some of the loaned items may be lost. I would like these items that my father carried with him during his 20 plus years of Chief Of Police be returned to his grandson and four great-grandsons rather than be moved or maybe lost during any transition.

The items loaned are as follow:

*Bobbie Police Helmet
Iron Claw comealong
Black leather sap blackjack
Brown nightstick
Peerless Handcuffs
Two gold insignia "Anaconda Police"
Gold nameplate "Michael T. Morris"
Six point badge... Chief Michael T. Morris
Sam Brown Duty Belt
MSP Dress Uniform Hat
Original "Master Detective" March 1955
Colt Officers Model 38 revolver*

I have a detailed receipt of these items that will be provided to you upon request.

Thank you in advance for returning the items to my family that were loaned to the Law Enforcement Museum.

I will anxiously await your reply.

Sincerely,

Mary Pat Brown

Mary Pat Morris Brown

Daughter of:

"Chief Michael T. Morris"