

shall be kept by the secretary of state and used by him officially, and known as the great seal of the state of Montana."

Acting under this provision, the secretary of state has long adhered to the position that the great seal shall never be used for other than official business and for purposes directly concerned with the State of Montana. This contemporaneous construction by the officer charged with its execution is entitled to great weight, and will not be disregarded or overthrown unless it is clear that such construction is erroneous. (*Riley vs. Thompson*, 193 Cal. 773, 227 Pac. 772). For legislative enactments which concur with this construction, see; Sections 94-2002 and 94-3581, Revised Codes of Montana, 1947.

It is therefore my opinion that the great seal of the State of Montana may not be reproduced by manufacturing concerns for commercial or advertising purposes.

Very truly yours,
ARNOLD H. OLSEN
Attorney General

Opinion No. 113

**Great Seal of the State of Montana
—Secretary of State—Constitution—
Advertising.**

Held: The great seal of the State of Montana may not be reproduced by manufacturing concerns for advertising or commercial purposes.

September 5, 1952.

Governor John W. Bonner
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Dear Governor Bonner:

You have requested my opinion on whether the great seal of the State of Montana may be reproduced and used by manufacturing concerns for advertising or commercial purposes.

Article VII, Section 17 of the Constitution of Montana, provides:

"The first legislative assembly shall provide a seal for the state, which