

poses of the motor vehicle law of this state. If we issued licenses for automobiles on which we have no record, we would be contributing to the possibility of numerous car thefts.

When the owner of a car registered in another state wishes to secure a Montana license, a Montana certificate of title must be obtained. In order that the registrar may issue such a title, he must have authority from the owner, as he would have no right to interfere with the owner's title without authority from the owner to do so.

Therefore, it is my opinion Montana license plates cannot be issued for other than cars having a Montana certificate of title, and the Registrar of Motor Vehicles has no authority to issue such a title without the consent of the owner of the vehicle.

Sincerely yours,
R. V. BOTTOMLY,
Attorney General

Opinion No. 9.

Registrar of Motor Vehicles—Certificate of Title—License Plates.

Held: Montana license plates cannot be issued for other than cars having a Montana certificate of title, and the Registrar of Motor Vehicles has no authority to issue such a title without the consent of the owner of the vehicle.

January 19, 1945.

Mr. John E. Henry
Registrar of Motor Vehicles
Deer Lodge, Montana

Dear Mr. Henry:

You have requested an opinion of this office whether 1945 license plates and a Montana certificate of title may be issued for an automobile—title to which is registered in another state—upon the application of some person other than the registered owner as shown by the certificate of title.

There is no authority for issuing Montana license plates for any motor vehicle not registered in this state, and to which this state has no outstanding certificate of title. To hold otherwise would be to defeat the aims and pur-