City-county merger among topics slated for U panel talk

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA---

Importance of intergovernmental cooperation in Montana and the prospects for such cooperation in the future will highlight a panel discussion Feb. 16 at the University of Montana.

Included in the discussion will be the attempted merger in 1963 of Butte city and Silver Bow County governments.

The panel discussion, set for 3:15 p.m. Feb. 16 in the Music Recital Hall, is open to the public without charge.

Feb. 17 have been set aside for Charter Day activities on the Missoula campus. Charter Day is actually Feb. 17, but many events honoring the University's 75th anniversary will be on Friday because the actual founding date is Saturday.

Raphael J. Moses, a lawyer from Boulder, Colo., also will speak on Friday, Feb. 16. Moses' lecture, entitled "Interstate Agreements--National Water Resources," is second in a series being presented by the UM law school under a $2,000 grant from the Sperry and Hutchinson Foundation Lectureship Program. The lecture will be at 8 p.m. in the MRH.

Moses' address also is open to the public without charge. Government officials, attorneys and Chambers of Commerce members from throughout the state are among those who have been invited to attend both the panel discussion and evening program.
Panelists and topics for the intergovernmental panel discussion Friday include Robert E. Sullivan, UM law school dean, "Compacts In Their Essence and Broad Application"; Dr. William D. Diehl, director of the UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, "Agreements Between Urban Entities"; and R. Bourke MacDonald, a Missoula man and real estate developer on Flathead Lake who will discuss the attempted Butte-Silver Bow consolidation. MacDonald formerly lived in Butte.

Sullivan said MacDonald "was very active in the group" that sought the merger. The attempted consolidation was defeated in a special Silver Bow County election on March 5, 1963, by a vote of 10,358-6,629.

In addition to being a practicing attorney, Moses also is a visiting lecturer in the University of Colorado law college. He received a bachelor's degree in 1935 and a law degree in 1937, both from the U of C. He practiced law in Alamosa, Colo., from 1938-62.