

## Press Releases

### **DESOTOS, DAMES & DUDES – DIVORCE RENO STYLE**

#### **National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection) exhibit recaptures daring days in Reno**

ST. HELENA, CA, April 11, 2005—DESOTOS, DAMES & DUDES – DIVORCE RENO STYLE, currently on exhibit at the National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection) in Reno, Nevada, brings to life the fascinating era of the 1930s and 1940s when Reno was known as the Divorce Capital of the World. The exhibit runs April 11 through October 3, 2005 in the museum at 10 South Lake Street, Reno, Nevada.

Automobiles on exhibit include a 1936 DeSoto De Luxe Airstream Taxicab and a 1947 DeSoto S-11C Suburban. Exhibit organizers call this "a unique time-setting display from one of the most exciting times in Reno's history." The autos are displayed in a dude ranch setting, highlighting their heyday in Nevada. The DeSoto Suburban was the type of auto used to pick up divorce seekers at the Southern Pacific train depot in Reno and take them out to a dude ranch for their six week stay.

Former Nevada dude wrangler Bill McGee recalls, "At the Flying M E in Washoe Valley, where I worked in the late 1940s, I'd pick up the guests at the train station in a '47 forest green Buick 'Woody' with the Flying M E brand on the front door panels. The ranch also had a Chrysler Town & Country 'Woody' convertible that was used for transporting the guests (mostly divorce seekers and mostly women) to town to meet with their lawyers or go to the hairdresser."

Helping to re-create the 1940s dude ranch setting are fifty vintage photographs from McGee's coffee table book, *THE DIVORCE SEEKERS - A PHOTO MEMOIR OF A NEVADA DUDE WRANGLER* (BMC Publications, 2004). Also on display, the custom-made roping saddle that McGee used on his horse, Zorro, at the Flying M E.

Bill and his co-author/wife Sandra will present a narrated slideshow, *THE DIVORCE SEEKERS*, as part of the Museum's Heritage Workshop Lecture Series on July 21, 2005, 6:45–7:45 p.m.

The National Automobile Museum at 10 South Lake Street, Reno, Nevada is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. For more information on the exhibit and lecture series call (775) 333-9300 or visit [www.automuseum.org](http://www.automuseum.org).

Contact:  
Sandra McGee, Marketing  
415-435-1883  
[bmcpublications@aol.com](mailto:bmcpublications@aol.com)

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