

## Press Releases

### **"THE COWBOY AND THE LADY"**

#### **Screenplay Based on the Book "The Divorce Seekers" Ready For Big Screen**

TIBURON, CA, September 1, 2007—The romance and fascination with the American West continues to supply Hollywood with material as shown by the recent theatrical releases of the remake of "3:10 to Yuma" and "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford."

This Western boomlet has also been displayed on television with the success of AMC's "Broken Trail." Add to this, the Coen brothers' contemporary Western, "No Country for Old Men," and the CBS miniseries "Comanche Moon," a prequel to "Lonesome Dove."

Bill and Sandra McGee have crafted yet another story set in the West, a screenplay based on their book, THE DIVORCE SEEKERS: A PHOTO MEMOIR OF A NEVADA DUDE WRANGLER. The story is set in Nevada, late 1940s, when Reno was known as the Divorce Capital of the World, and divorce seekers, by the thousands, flocked to Reno for a "quickie" divorce.

While not strictly a Western, the story is set in the West, and is a love story between a cowboy and a lady, loosely based on Bill's years in the late 1940s as a dude wrangler on the exclusive Flying M E dude ranch in Nevada. While working on the Flying M E, Bill met and fell in love with a ranch guest, a young woman from a prominent and wealthy Eastern family who came to the ranch seeking a divorce.

Other films have been made about divorce seekers, cowboys, and Nevada—most notably, Arthur Miller's "The Misfits" (1961) and Clare Boothe's "The Women" (1939). When Miller was asked about the storyline for "The Misfits," he said, "It's supposed to be a Western, but it's not a Western—it's a sort of Eastern Western."

#### **"The Cowboy and the Lady" - Synopsis**

Setting - Nevada, 1947. The Flying M E, an exclusive dude ranch, twenty miles south of Reno, that caters to wealthy divorce seekers, mostly Eastern socialites and Hollywood celebs.

Beautiful, spoiled New York debutante, ANNIE TEMPLETON, arrives at the Flying M E for a divorce. She's heartbroken, having caught her husband cheating on her with her best friend.

Annie meets her first cowboy, the Flying M E's handsome dude wrangler, BILL MCGEE. The attraction between them is unmistakable. Annie finds Bill aloof, a challenge, quite unlike the starch-shirted men she knows in New York. Bill finds Annie impossibly attractive. But he's not supposed to fraternize with the guests, a rule he agreed to when he was hired. At first they tangle, hurl insults, try to deny their attraction to each other. But soon they are having a passionate affair, knowing full-well their futures will never mesh.

Meanwhile, two scandals rock the ranch. Guests move to town. Business drops off. The ranch owner, EMMY WOOD, and the staff worry about their futures.

Bill has an idea that might turn things around: Enter a team of guests in Reno's annual Mounted Games Championship. He has just four weeks to train six "M E" riders for the competition. None of them have done timed-event racing before, but Bill convinces them to try, tells them it will help them get through their six week "sentences." Against Bill's better judgment, Annie, the weakest of the riders, trains day and night. She finally makes the team in spite of a broken arm - and the news she's pregnant.

The tangle of personal dramas plays out against the beauty of the Nevada desert, Lake Tahoe, Virginia City, and the wild and wooly atmosphere of 1940s Reno.

Writing credits:

William L. McGee and Sandra McGee, co-authors of THE DIVORCE SEEKERS (BMC Publications, 2004).

Other credits for William L. McGee include: Writer/producer of two industrial films on radio and TV advertising; author of nine books on broadcast advertising, and four books on WWII military history.

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