

Press Release

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"The Divorce Seekers is the best book yet about Nevada's famous dude-divorce ranch business."

*—Nevada Historical Society,
Reno*

*"A page-turner!"
Cowboys & Indians Magazine*

"The Divorce Seekers" Captures Nevada's Divorce Ranch History

Former Nevada dude wrangler Bill McGee and his co-author/wife Sandra recapture Reno's elegant era as the "Divorce Capital of the World" in their new coffee table book, "The Divorce Seekers."
www.DivorceSeekers.com

ST. HELENA, CA, May 2004—The romance of the American West lives on in **"The Divorce Seekers - A Photo Memoir of a Nevada Dude Wrangler,"** by William L. and Sandra McGee (BMC Publications, 2004).

Rich in 502 vintage photos, most never before published, this coffee table book is a visual tribute to the Western legend of Eastern divorce seekers mixing it up out West with cowboys and other local Nevadans during the heyday of the six-week divorce when Reno, Nevada was known as the Divorce Capital of the World.

In 1947, Bill McGee, a young Montana cowboy, landed the coveted job of head dude wrangler at the Flying M E (pronounced: EM EE), an exclusive dude ranch twenty miles south of Reno catering to wealthy Easterners and Hollywood celebrities.

In the warm and informal tone of a ranch insider, McGee tells about the people he met (referred to as the "changing cast of characters" since most ranch guests stayed for six weeks) and the places he knew ("favorite sights and watering holes"). He brings to life Reno's elegant era as the "Divorce Mecca." His stories are laced with humor, romance and intrigue, and peppered with names like Astor, du Pont, Roosevelt and Gable. The reader gets an up-close glimpse into this brief but glamorous epoch of the American West.

"Bill McGee is one of the few dude wranglers - 'still above ground'- (as he puts it) who lived and worked on a leading Nevada dude ranch during the post-World War II era....Bill tells it like it really was on a dude ranch when Reno was the Divorce Capital of the World." (From the Foreword by William W. Bliss)

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The book is divided into four parts, mixing personal stories with history, sidebars and appendices:

- Part I, "Cowboyin' Memoirs," recounts McGee's years as a cowboy in Montana, Wyoming and Lake Tahoe.
- Part II, "The Famous Flying M E Ranch and the Changing Cast of Characters," gives the reader an up-close glimpse of life on the exclusive dude ranch and the people who stayed there.
- Part III, "Gettin' Untied," describes the Nevada divorce business and includes a brief history, interviews with lawyers, the media's role, and what it's like to go to court for a "six minute" divorce.
- Part IV, "Other Leading Nevada Dude-Divorce Ranches, Circa 1930-1960," profiles the other leading dude-divorce ranches of the era, and includes a brief history of dude ranching in the West.

Availability**THE DIVORCE SEEKERS: A Photo Memoir of a Nevada Dude Wrangler**

by William L. McGee and Sandra McGee

Foreword by William W. Bliss

Available from the publisher at www.BMCpublications.com or from Amazon.com.

\$49.95, Hardcover, 8-1/2 x 11, 444 pages, 502 b/w photos and illustrations, plus maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index, ISBN-13: 978-0-9701678-1-1, BMC Publications, 2004.

To the Media

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About the Authors

William L. McGee enjoyed a 32-year career in the film, radio and TV industry. He is the author of numerous books including the acclaimed Pacific war trilogy, *Amphibious Operations in the South Pacific in World War II*. Sandra McGee is a veteran publicist for the performing arts. Bill and Sandra have appeared on numerous radio and TV programs, and are members of Western Writers of America.

About BMC Publications

BMC Publications is an imprint of Broadcast Marketing Company ("BMC") founded in 1971 by William L. McGee to provide sales support and training services to radio and TV stations. Titles in print include *Amphibious Operations in the South Pacific in World War II*, *A Pacific War Trilogy*; *Bluejacket Odyssey, 1942-1946: Guadalcanal to Bikini, Naval Armed Guard in the Pacific*; *The Divorce Seekers: A Photo Memoir of a Nevada Dude Wrangler*; and *Learning To Cope with Sight Loss: Six Weeks at a VA Blind Rehabilitation Center*. For more information, visit www.BMCpublications.com.

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