

**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*

**Historic Gathering at Nevada’s Famous Flying M. E. Divorce Ranch**

*On May 16, 2004, the gates of the famous Flying M E ranch were opened to seventy guests who gathered for a historic reunion. Nearly every guest had a connection to Nevada’s most exclusive dude-divorce ranch or its legendary owner, Emmy Wood. [www.DivorceSeekers.com](http://www.DivorceSeekers.com)*

Franktown, NV, May 2004—On May 16, 2004, the gates of the famous Flying M E divorce ranch were opened to seventy guests who gathered for a historic reunion. Nearly every guest had a connection to Nevada’s most exclusive dude-divorce ranch or its legendary owner, Emmy Wood.

The event was hosted by Bill and Sandra McGee to celebrate the release of their new book, *THE DIVORCE SEEKERS - A PHOTO MEMOIR OF A NEVADA DUDE WRANGLER* (BMC Publications, 2004).

Among the honored guests were descendants of names that date back to Nevada’s Comstock boom in the 1800s (William A. Bliss of Glenbrook, NV; and Kay and JohnD Winters of Dayton, NV) and from the early days of Lake Tahoe and Tahoe City (Bernie Bechdolt of Tahoe City, CA).

Other honored guests included historian/photographer Neal Cobb; writer/producer Andria Daley (she’s the biographer for Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg); Nikki Demas-Butz (Nikki’s mother and father met at the Flying M E when Nikki’s mother came for a divorce and met Mike Demas, a popular Carson City “21” dealer); Janice Goodhue (Janice met her husband, Nathaniel Goodhue, at the Flying M E when he came for a divorce); brothers Dirck and Kit Hinton (their mother, New York socialite Penna Tew Hinton, came to the Flying M E for a divorce and married Pat Hart, the owner of the Brass Rail Saloon in Virginia City); Tina Bundy Nappe (Tina grew up on the Bundy ranch down the road from the Flying M E); Kathy Swanson Landis (standing in for her father, noted Reno attorney Harry B. Swanson); and Joan McGee Wagner (Joan came to the Flying M E in 1948 for a divorce and married the “M E’s” wrangler, Bill McGee). Joan, a talented artist and musician, serenaded her former husband with her version of Conway Twitty’s country song “Don’t Call Him A Cowboy.”

Making sure the McGee’s got their facts right were Eric Moody, Curator of Manuscripts, Nevada Historical Society; Sara Larson, Director of Museums, North Lake Tahoe Historical Society; Guy Louis Rocha, Nevada State Library and Archives; and Phillip Earl, former Curator of History, Nevada Historical Society.

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Virginia City guests included *Sopwith Camel* co-founder Peter Kraemer, wearing a vintage 1970s Western suit from Parker's (Peter grew up in the old Nevada Brewery in Six Mile Canyon, Virginia City); Paul Cirac of White Sage Studios with Maxine (Paul designed the book cover for *DIVORCE SEEKERS*); author Donald Dickerson (his grandfather, Governor Denver S. Dickerson, was Nevada's eleventh governor from 1908 to 1911), and Gordon Lane (Gordon and his wife, Anne, owned the infamous Union Brewery in Virginia City for 35 years). Cirac and Dickerson are both fifth generation Nevadans.

The event was blessed with perfect weather, complete with a gentle Washoe zephyr. Guests enjoyed the sweet sounds of the Craig Fletcher Band with Billy Starr, while nibbling on canapés and cookies baked in the shape of the Flying M E brand.

The historic event was captured on video and is now available in a one-hour edited version on DVD, available only from BMC Publications (\$10 plus \$5 S&H).

In 1963, the Flying M E burned to the ground, leaving behind only the five-car garage, stables and wrangler's bunkhouse. Today, the historic property is privately owned. The owners have built their ranch house on the footprint of the original 1861 Franktown Hotel, later the Flying M E. As for the other leading dude-divorce ranches of the era, not much remains today. There is one lone cabin still standing on the TH Ranch in Sutcliffe, and a few guest log cabins plus the main ranch house (built by cowboy artist-author Will James) at Washoe Pines in Franktown.

**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](http://www.BMCpublications.com).

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