

Press Releases

"A RETURN TO THE FLYING M E"

Now On DVD – Coverage of the 2004 Historic Gatherin' at Nevada's Famous Dude Ranch

FRANKTOWN, NV, September 29, 2007—On May 16, 2004, the gates of the famous Flying M E 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 and its legendary owner, Emmy Wood.

The event was hosted by Bill and Sandra McGee, co-authors of *THE DIVORCE SEEKERS - A PHOTO MEMOIR OF A NEVADA DUDE WRANGLER* (BMC Publications, 2004). The McGee's wanted to thank the many people who contributed their stories and photographs to the book.

Now on DVD – Coverage of this historic event. One hour of interviews with former ranch guests and friends of the legendary owner, Emmy Wood, plus a tour of the ranch. Available only from BMC Publications. \$10 plus \$5 S&H

[Watch 7 Minutes of Highlights from the DVD](#)

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Among the honored guests featured in the DVD are 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 that are interviewed on the DVD include 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.

Virginia City guests included former Sopwith Camel pilot 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.

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.

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