

News Release: For immediate release

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Ranch living with a modern touch comes alive in new Montana book

Come along on a cattle drive through the historic Brink ranch. Lay out your bedroll under a pine tree beneath the starry skies of Montana, as coyotes howl from the rimrocks, cattle graze nearby, and horses nicker softly and stamp their feet in the darkness.

The spirit of the west comes alive in a unique new book, *Montana Stirrups, Sage and Shenanigans: Western Ranch Life in a Forgotten Era*, in stories of working cattle, horses, wildlife and western humor. In this old west epic with a modern touch, sisters Francie Brink Berg, Anne Brink Sallgren Krickel and Jeanie Brink Thiessen write of ranch life through a legacy of pioneer values and traditions.

This book speaks to readers of all ages who enjoy the west: from young people who envision themselves in engaging scenarios to old-timers who were there and want to share with

friends and families. This is a truly enjoyable book that is equally at home on the coffee table and in the family library.

In many ways it is the story of young ranching families all across the west during a time that demanded resourcefulness, hard work and courage. Dozens of events take the reader from hard times of the Depression, to fighting World War II on the home front, to embracing post-war

recovery. Difficult times, yet a remarkable sense of humor prevailed and there was time for pranks, jokes and the fun of creating them.

But it is the personal stories that make this modern western classic a delight to readers—stunning tales of trailing cattle in a blizzard, branding, overcoming emergencies of accident and fire, anxiously watching as Nazi POWs work the fields.

Montana Stirrups, Sage and Shenanigans is a social history as well, of the uncommon people of the west who practiced tolerance and respect, extended warm hospitality to strangers and knew the close ties of family and community. The authors' own mother came west by covered wagon and their father ran wild horses out of the Missouri River Breaks, both before 1910.

This new 408-page volume is packed with lively stories and attractively laid out with dozens of black-and-white images and over 260 historic photographs from the Brink family collection. Available in Montana bookstores and from Flying Diamond Books at www.montanastirrupsandsage.com.

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Montana Stirrups, Sage and Shenanigans is available in softcover for 29.95 and hardcover for 39.95 in bookstores, gift shops, and by mail from Flying Diamond Books, 402 South 14th Street, Hettinger, ND 58639 (605-347-1806), info@montanastirrupsandsage.com. Online purchases at www.montanastirrupsandsage.com.