

PRESS RELEASE

Suzanne Dalitz lecture

The daughter of the late Las Vegas casino boss Moe Dalitz, who developed the Desert Inn and Stardust Hotels, and was one of the major power brokers of the Las Vegas Strip during the 1950s and 1960s, will speak at 10:am on Saturday, November 19, at the St. George Children's Museum, 86 South Main.

Suzanne Dalitz will tell how her father, Moe Dalitz, along with his wife, Averill, bought and developed the Desert Inn Ranch (known to local residents as the "D.I. Ranch") near the remote hamlet of Motoqua, in western Washington County, Utah.

Here, they brought Suzanne as a baby in 1957. She took her first steps in the ranch house garden and learned to ride horses on the trails. At the ranch, Moe Dalitz hunted deer and mountain lion. He embraced every aspect of the Wild West mythology he learned from the Zane Gray novels he had consumed during long winters back east, back when he was a bootlegger in Cleveland and Detroit during prohibition. He was also an illegal gambler in the underground casinos of Kentucky and Ohio.

Dalitz came west to start a new and largely legitimate life -- in Nevada where gambling was legal and in Utah where all men could be cowboys, even Jewish rumrunners. The Desert Inn hotel was sold in 1966 - and the ranch went soon thereafter.

Suzanne Dalitz came back five years ago to retrace her father's voyage from racket boss to city father. Her own journey has included visits with her father's former business partners and adversaries, political figures, historians, old mobsters, federal agents and reporters. She collaborated with the new Mob Museum in Las Vegas. Suzanne always knew that journey to reconstruct her bygone world would some day take her back to St. George.

This free lecture is sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society through a donation from the Beckham/Ashe Foundation. The public is invited.

For information on the D.I. Ranch, see <http://wchsutah.org/homes/di-ranch.php>