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# MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail before moving to New York to write for Rupert Murdoch's newly launched Star magazine in 1978; Richard later wrote for New York magazine's "Intelligencer". He continues to make regular appearances on CBS, ABC, and CNN, and moved to Montecito four years ago.

## New Novel for Eringer



Robert Eringer puts his spy background to good use in new novel

**P**rince Albert of Monaco's nemesis, **Robert Eringer**, whose battle royal with His Serene Highness over more than \$500,000 in back salary as his spymaster continues to wend through the U.S. courts, has been putting his background in the Mediterranean principality to good use.

Next month he publishes his sixth book, *Cloak & Corkscrew: Where CIA Meets Hollywood*.

"I first had the idea for this about five years ago when I was running the intelligence service for Albert," explains Robert. "A liaison partner from another intelligence service conveyed to me a funny story about the CIA's office in Los Angeles. It stuck with me."

While visiting Washington, D.C. two years back, Robert met with a retired friend from the CIA's operations directorate and learned a lot about the agency's connection with Hollywood.

"What I learned became the basis of my novel. As with most novels, the gestation period – mind mulching – took longer than the actual writing, about two months. At one point, I got fed up with espionage and stopped. Over a year later, I picked up the unfinished manuscript, read it, loved it, and I completed it in a week."

Robert, 57, says the CIA has an intriguing relationship with Tinseltown, which even leads to turf wars between the agency and the FBI.

"For decades, a division called Domestic Contacts ran the CIA's U.S. operations. A few years ago, its name was changed to Foreign Research Division. Today, the operatives of Foreign Research cultivate foreign

nationals that attend trade shows and universities in the U.S., recruiting them to spy in their spheres of expertise upon returning home.

"Officers from this division also recruit U.S. citizens traveling abroad, using them for special 'access' to people and to places of interest that are otherwise hard to reach. Some recruits go mostly unpaid, willing to cooperate purely for patriotic reasons."

Robert describes Los Angeles as the agency's "most unique" domestic station, as it is from there that agents cultivate and recruit Hollywood celebrities to spy for them abroad.

His new tome is a fictionalized version of how the CIA operates, with box office star Josh Penner meeting Venezuela's **Hugo Chavez** as an agent, and the ensuing entanglements.

*Cloak & Corkscrew* will be available globally on Amazon, with an e-book Kindle edition in due course...

### Living the High Life

When Montecito's **Tom Wathen** takes friends out for a spin, he does it in quite splendid fashion.

Tom, 82, who used to head the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, has been an accomplished flyer for 53 years, even buying his own airport, Flabob in Riverside, a year after his retirement in 1999.

Since the '50s he has owned 15 planes, but one of his favorites is a DC-3 – a former World War II C-47 – built in 1943, which he has restored.

So the other day Tom and his wife, **Carol**, invited fellow Montecitans, **Jane** and **Jim Burkemper**, and Hope Ranch couple, **Diana** and **Paul O'Keefe** for a high flying tea, leav-





Paul and Diana O'Keefe, Jane Burkemper, Carol and Tom Wathen, and Jim Burkemper in front of Tom's imposing DC-3

ing from Atlantic Aviation at Santa Barbara Airport and flying up to the Vandenberg Air Force Base area.

"It was the most enormous fun," says Jane. "The plane is still pretty basic, but very well preserved. It was the oldest plane we've ever flown in and quite massive. But, given its propellers, it's amazingly quiet.

"Tom flew quite low and it couldn't have been a more perfect day, although it was quite windy. The views were spectacular. It was one of life's magic little moments!"

The high life, indeed...

*Like Father, Like Son*

**Ivan Arroyo** is following in his father **Alfredo's** culinary footsteps.

Alfredo has worked at the popular nosheteria, Café Del Sol, for nearly four decades and is now general

manager for owners, **Jack and Emilie Sears.**

Ivan, 26, started working at the eatery by the bird refuge at the age of 10 during his summer vacations, helping in the kitchen.

"I've grown up in the restaurant business, but I had to really earn my job," he says. "I became a busboy and then a waiter, but I always wanted to open my own place."

That dream came true last year when Ivan and his fiancée, **Ashton Falchi**, a student at cosmetology school, opened their 100-seater restaurant, Las Aves Café on Bath Street in Santa Barbara, which he describes as having continental cuisine with a Spanish flair.

"My father has, of course, given me

**MISCELLANY** Page 18 ▶



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Alfredo Arroyo with his restaurateur son, Ivan, outside the Las Aves Café

guidance and often drops by to see how I'm doing when he's not at Café Del Sol," adds Ivan, who graduated from San Marcos High School and attended City College.

The perfect pairing...

#### Stick With Her

Despite disappointing ratings and increased costs, **Oprah Winfrey's** year-old eponymous cable channel, OWN, still has the backing of Discovery Communications honcho, **David Zaslav**, who is asking viewers to give it time to establish its footing.

"My job, Oprah's job, is to create a meaningful audience for OWN over the next two years," he told a media conference in New York. "That's what you should watch for and I think



Oprah's cable TV channel gets full backing from Discovery

we're on our way."

Discovery launched OWN last January amid much fanfare, but despite a big ratings gain in its first week – it averaged 505,000 viewers – viewing figures since then have been a ratings disappointment.

In November, according to Nielsen Media Research, prime-time total viewers were down 16 percent from 240,000 to 202,000, and women 25-54 declined three percent from 78,000 to 76,000. Total day viewers were down 22 percent from 144,000 to 113,000 and women 25-54 were off eight percent from 48,000 to 44,000.

The network has also been costly.

Discovery committed \$189 million in funding for the network at its launch, but as of September, its investment in OWN had ballooned to \$254 million, according to financial statements.

Zaslav says advertisers remain supportive of Oprah and her network.

"We're just getting going," he says. "They're excited about the mission. If you can create a network in a niche

that doesn't exist and then deliver something that is meaningful, you can create a big business. CNBC did it. We think we can do it with OWN."

Stay tuned...

#### Romance Rekindling

They've hardly been together in recent months, kept apart by busy work schedules, leading to much speculation about the state of their marriage.



Katy Perry and Russell Brand to rekindle romance on India trip

But Santa Barbara warbler **Katy Perry** and British comedian **Russell Brand** are planning a romantic trip back to where they tied the knot in a bid to spice up their relationship.

The tony twosome are said to be returning to India, where they were married more than a year ago.

Brand, who has been working on back-to-back film projects since the summer, has reportedly booked a holiday to the Aman New Delhi Hotel in the New Year to get their marriage back on track.

Meanwhile, Katy has been traveling around the globe on her "California Dreams" tour.

Watch this space...

#### Busted Moves

Santa Barbara Revels' Bavarian Celebration of the Winter Solstice at the Lobero had an unexpected addition to the colorful cast when yours truly was chosen from the audience, along with two other hapless 'victims,' to try our hands at Schuhplattler dancing.

Literally meaning "shoeslapper," dancers, dressed in their lederhosen, rhythmically slap their thighs, knees and shoes to music in three quarter time.

After the briefest of demonstrations, we were left to our own devices to thoroughly embarrass ourselves in front of a much amused audience.

For our efforts, St. Nicholas, wickedly played by UCSB drama professor, **Simon Williams**, presented us with lumps of coal, a souvenir to treasure.

This was the fourth annual event under founder and producer **Susan**

**Keller**, with **Ken Ryals** as the very capable music director and **Maggie Mixsell** running the stage.

One of the highlights is the singing of The Twelve Days of Christmas, with a full cast of young audience members acting out the various characters, under the amusing direction of Ryals.

Great fun, but I feel, after my decidedly feeble efforts on stage, *Dancing with the Stars* won't be calling me any time soon!..

#### Attitude Reconstruction

It took 21 years for Montecito family therapist **Jude Bijou** to write her first book *Attitude Reconstruction*.

Jude, whose late father was a pioneering behavioral child psychologist at universities in Washington, Arizona and Illinois, says it took so long because "I wanted to make an order of things."



Jude Bijou's 21 year book project

"I went to India in 1972 to study meditation and worked with transcendental meditation with the Maharishi, who famously worked with the Beatles, in France and Switzerland in the seventies. I also visited an ashram in the 1990s, but I didn't find the answers I needed. Meditating certainly helped as I got glimpses of myself... I certainly had pure good experiences."

Jude, who threw a small launch bash at Tecolote, the bustling bibliophile bastion in the Upper Village, says her 320-page tome is a guide to going from sadness, anger and fear to joy, love and peace in less than five minutes.

A quick fix, indeed...

#### Royally Close Quarters

Christmas would appear to have been decidedly cramped for **Queen Elizabeth** and her family at Sandringham House, her Majesty's stately pile in Norfolk in the east of England.

The 20,000 acre estate was bought by Queen Victoria for her son, the future King Edward VII, and the monarch traditionally spends Yuletide and the New Year there.

With a record 27 royals staying there this year, one of the biggest gatherings of the Royal Family in decades, it caused a major headache for staff at the Jacobean-style mansion, with royals at the "lower end" of the pecking

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## MISCELLANY (Continued from page 18)

order being relegated to the servants' quarters, known as the Bachelor Wing because it normally houses many of the single men on staff.

The servants who were there had to pack up their belongings and move into the footmen's bedrooms, prompting much grumbling among those staff members who had to double up and share.

"It's a large country house by any standards, but, given all the new husbands, wives and children, they were crammed in like sardines this year."

Oh dear...

### Kris's Rose-Colored Glasses

The family of basketball star **Kris Humphries** had reservations about his relationship with reality TV star **Kim Kardashian** from the day he started dating her, it would seem.

They were "surprised" by the speedy intensity of the union between Humphries, 26, and Kardashian, 31.

And, according to RadarOnline.com, they suggest Humphries had no time to remove his rose tinted glasses before Kardashian hit him with divorce papers just 72 days after their publicity-saturated wedding in Montecito.

"We expressed concern to him about his relationship with Kim," a close family member tells the website.

"We were quite surprised that it was as serious as it was with them. But he was just taken away by her, and you can't tell someone in love to open their eyes a little wider. He just saw what he wanted to see."

Although Kardashian has been accused of staging the marriage and divorce for publicity, Humphries was genuinely in love – then authentically heartbroken, says the source.

In the meantime, I note the latest *Us Weekly*, in its "Best of" for 2011, lauds the Royal Wedding between **Prince William** and **Kate Middleton**, while blasting the Kardashian nuptials as "the worst," calling it "a waste of time and money!"

Interestingly, as you know, I did commentary on both for national TV.

From one extreme to the other!...

### Diamond in the Rough

As the gap between the rich and the poor has never been more pronounced, the launch of a million dollar perfume is set to really divide the haves and have nots.

Encrusted with diamonds and rare gemstones, the luxury bottle is, fortunately, being sold in aid of charity.

Beverly Hills celebrity jeweler **Martin Katz** has teamed up with designers at DKNY to create the glittering masterpiece, which is set to go on a world tour before being sold off for the humanitarian organization, Action Against Hunger.

The apple-shaped bottle is carved

from yellow and white gold and sparkles with 2,700 round brilliant white diamonds weighing 15.17 carats.

On the side the Manhattan skyline is shaped out of 183 golden yellow sapphires, while the cap is embellished with a 2.43 carat flawless vivid yellow canary diamond, with yet more diamonds making up the DKNY logo.

Katz, who is famed for decorating the stars at the Oscars and Golden Globes, spent 1,500 hours with his team making the bottle.

The sweet smell of excess...

### Chafed Coiffeur

It's curling tongs at dawn over the **Duchess of Cambridge**.

HRH's longtime crimper, **James Pryce**, who accompanied her on the royal trip to Santa Barbara and Los Angeles in July, has just quit the Chelsea, London, salon of **Richard Ward**, where he had worked for the past eight years.



Royal flap over Kate's hairdresser

It seems the work led to a series of clashes at the celebrity salon, culminating in his departure as creative director last month.

The final straw came when Ward allegedly discovered Pryce was giving his personal details to clients, in breach of his contract.

Both men will now be eager to retain the future queen as a client, alongside her mother, **Carole**, and sister, **Pippa**.

Royal observers believe Kate will remain with Pryce, who has become a good friend.

All too hair raising for words...

Sightings: **Emily Blunt** and husband, **John Krasinski**, chowing down at Olio e Limone... **Stuart Whitman** getting his Java jolt at Pierre Lafond... Comedian **David Spade's** father, **Sam**, checking out Café Del Sol

Pip! Pip! for now - and Happy New Year!

Readers with tips, sightings and amusing items for Richard's column should e-mail him at [richardmin-eards@verizon.net](mailto:richardmin-eards@verizon.net) or send invitations or other correspondence to the *Journal*

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