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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 seven years ago.

Watch Out, Broadway!

Cole Evers is a talented young man on a mission.

Cole, an 11-year-old student at the Santa Barbara Montessori School, is a longtime member of Broadway veteran Janet Adderley's Youth Ensemble Theatre and is currently auditioning for an impressive three major roles, two of them on the Great White Way.

The parts are in *The King and I* and *Pippin*, as well as the upcoming NBC TV production of *Peter Pan*. He also made callbacks for parts in *Les Misérables*, which he starred in at the Lobero Theatre in May, and *Newsies*.

"It is all rather amazing," says his mother, **Monique**, a former TV and film production executive.

"As an infant, Cole was always sing-



Cole Evers in the recent Janet Adderley production of *Les Misérables* at the Lobero

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MISCELLANY (Continued from page 6)

ing and humming to himself, and could easily repeat the chorus of a song after hearing it just once or twice. He would play on his drum as a toddler and repeat the downbeat of rock songs that my husband, **Scott**, had on his vinyl LP player. At the time, we were fascinated, but didn't have any notion that his natural ear for music would turn into what it has now."

Cole, who also sings the National Anthem at the Santa Barbara Polo Club on occasion, was introduced to musical theater five years ago when he went to watch *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Lobero.

"During the show, he was incessantly asking questions how the people on stage knew how to walk on, about the music and the story. Finally having been shushed several times by people sitting nearby, he declared: 'I want to do that. I want to sing and tell a story on stage.' I said he could try it sometime down the road."

Three years later, aged eight, having played four seasons of soccer and baseball, Cole reminded his mother of the agreement.

His first audition was with Big Stage Productions – which has since become the SB School of Performing Arts – where he was cast in one of the lead roles in Disney's *Aristocats*.

"From there he was hooked and couldn't wait to get into another show," says Monique. "He then auditioned for *Seussical* and, though he hoped for a lead role, was an ensemble player at the Marjorie Luke Theatre, followed by a part in *Footloose* with the Performing & Visual Arts Company at McKinley Elementary School and also landed the role of Cupid in *Cupid & Psyche* with the Boxtales Theatre Company at the Lobero."

The roles whetted Cole's hunger for more musical theatre experiences, and he auditioned with a video for the Youth Ensemble Theatre.

"Janet met my husband and asked where we'd been hiding Cole. She said, 'He's mine until Broadway!' It

was a statement we often quote and laugh about, having no idea Cole would drive his talent from Santa Barbara to New York in a short ten months!"

Cole's first professional production was at Out of the Box Theatre Company in February last year with *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and he signed his first contract for eight shows at the Center Stage Theater.

"He played half the shows with scarlet fever and we begged him to bow out, but because he was so committed he absolutely refused."

It was then he asked about Broadway and London's West End and a trip was planned to Manhattan and Cole was enrolled, with his older brother, **Cash**, into the Sylvia Young Theatre School.

"As luck would have it, a longtime acquaintance in New York offered to introduce Cole to a friend who happened to be producing the seasonal Broadway show *A Christmas Story* and that landed him his first Great White Way audition. That led to six months training with the best vocal, dance and acting coaches, and also the attention of **Barry Kolker**, a top musical theatre agent. He also did a national TV commercial and a handful of feature film auditions."

Monique says she gave Cole the choice to stay in New York and pursue his acting interests, while working with a tutor who communicated with his teacher at the Montessori School to keep up schoolwork.

"He chose to stay in New York because he was on such a strong roll with his training and auditioning. It was like a roller-coaster ride, completely driven by him and his passions. We met with Janet several times when she was visiting her daughter, and she helped him prepare for auditions. He made the transition from being a local theater kid to a professional kid in a New York minute, as the saying goes."

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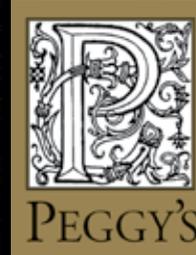
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Youth Ensemble Theatre's *Anything Goes*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Les Misérables*, and *Newsies*.

"It has been an incredible experience for all of us in the family to participate in this unfolding of Cole," adds Monique. "We are very proud of his talents, but even more proud of the confident, eloquent, well-mannered young man he is becoming."

Clearly a youngster to watch...

Suite Life

Beanie Baby tycoon **Ty Warner's** eponymous penthouse at his Four Seasons Hotel in New York boasts one of the most expensive suites in the world.

The 4,300-square-foot suite, which has nine rooms and 360-degree views over Manhattan, is bigger than the average city apartment and also comes with a private butler and a Rolls-Royce for \$35,000 a night, according to the Yahoo Travel survey.

Ty's suite, described by the hotel as "a multi-layered work of art," tied with the Maharajah's Pavilion at the Raj Palace Hotel in Jaipur, India, a 16,000-square-foot, four-floor apartment, the largest suite in Asia.

The most expensive suite is located at the Hotel President Wilson in Geneva, Switzerland, at 19,376-square-foot with four bedrooms and 12 marble bathrooms, bulletproof windows and



Ty Warner's penthouse suite at the Four Seasons in New York one of the world's most expensive sweeping views over Lake Geneva, at a rate in excess of \$36,000.

Don't all rush...

Trading Places

Montecito actress **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** has teamed with **Kevin Spacey** and swapped clothes to play each other's character for the covers of the new issues of *Entertainment Weekly*.

Spacey, 55, has dressed as HBO's *Veep*, Selina Mayer, while Julia, 53, suited up as *House of Cards'* Frank Underwood to help the glossy celebrate the 25 best characters on television.

Julia is sitting on a fabricated Lincoln Memorial, dressed in a black suit, white shirt, dark-blue tie and black shoes to morph into political power player Underwood.

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Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Kevin Spacey swap TV characters for *Entertainment Weekly* covers

Her brunette hair is hidden under a short wig and her fingers dripping blood down the monument, to represent the character's ruthless ability to remove people who get in his way.

Spacey, in full drag, wears a red jacket, pearls, a brunette wig, and full makeup to play Dreyfus's character in the hit comedy, now in its fourth season.

"How freakazoid is this?" she tweeted to her fans...

Summer Festival Sizzles

It may have been the final week of the Music Academy of the West's 67th summer festival, but it certainly went out on a high note.

Highlight of the festivities was

the popular "Cabaret" gala at Fess Parker's Doubletree, which again boasted the addition of comedienne **Carol Burnett**, who joined legendary mezzo-soprano **Marilyn Horne** – celebrating her 80th birthday – with the coaching sessions in musical comedy for the young vocalists heading the colorful event, which raised around \$400,000.

Some 450 guests turned out for the 17-year-old fest, under the award-winning musical direction of **Gerald Sternbach** – who has accompanied the likes of **Julie Andrews** and **Kelsey Grammer** – with 19 fellows from the academy's acclaimed voice program performing a thoroughly entertaining array of music from classical to jazz,

Broadway to pop.

Council member **Jan Hill** conducted the live auction, which included a Broadway-inspired bash in your home, an evening with **Carol Burnett**, a private dinner with **Glenn Dicterow** – concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic – and a four-day Manhattan musical extravaganza, staying at the Four Seasons.

Among those checking out the boffo bash, chaired by **Lee Luria** and produced by Montecito event planner extraordinaire **Merryl Brown**, were **Alan and Cara Schipper**, **Mike and Anne Towbes**, **John Saladino**, **Jamie and Marcia Constance**, **Belle Hahn Cohen**, **Scott Reed**, **Janet Garufis**, **Seymour and Shirley Lehrer**, **Mary Collier**, **Bob and Val Montgomery**, **Bob and Alex Nourse**, **Peter and Deborah Bertling**, **Robert Weinman**, **Ed and Sue Birch**, **Carolyn Amory**, **Henry and Rita Hortenstine**, **Robert and Margo Feinberg**, **Barbara Woods**, **Carter and Victoria Hines**, **Hillary Hauser**, **Morrie and Irma Jurkowitz**, **Karen Clark**, **Richard and Annette Caleel**, **Ricardo Calderon**, and **Tom and Carol Wathen**.

The festival, which featured 200 musical events over the past seven weeks, wrapped at the Granada at the weekend with British conductor and composer **Thomas Ades**, who made his Metropolitan Opera



Conductor Thomas Ades

debut last year, putting the Academy Festival Orchestra through its paces with works by Ives and Britten, and Ades's own work "Polaris", with the concert wrapping with Stravinsky's "Petrushka", the second of the composer's three great ballets for Serge Diaghilev's Ballets Russes...

Following Frank

When he's not checking out facts and figures, accountant **Frank McGinity** likes nothing better than traveling the globe.

Now Frank, whose wife, **Sheila**, is a past president of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, has put pen to paper for his book, *Get Off Your Street: A Personal Travelogue*.

"During long airline trips from a vacation, I would always use the time to write up the journey and then submit them to publications like the *Journal*," says Frank, whose company has offices in our tony town and Los Angeles.

"Friends would tell me they would

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Frank McGinity, global wanderer, publishes 175-page travelogue *Get Off Your Street*

sometimes travel through my eyes since they were unable to take the same type of trip. So, with the articles vetted, I thought I would publish them in a book with relatively little additional effort on my part."

Frank's title "Get Off Your Street" came from an old Jesuit high school professor who continued to admonish his class to get off the street and travel.

Frank says he has enough material for another small book and would like to visit Australia and South Africa in due course, making more than 30 countries the peripatetic twosome have traveled to over the years...

Party for Pippa

Montecito fashion designer **Kendall Conrad** hosted a bash at her store, just a tiara's toss from Vons, for Canadian-born jewelry designer **Pippa Small**, known for her ethically sourced uncut gemstones.

Pippa, who last year was made a Member of the British Empire by **Queen Elizabeth**, has collaborated with some of the biggest names in fashion, including Gucci, Chloe, and



Thea Vavasseur, Luisa Cameron, and Laura Giel at the Pippa Small bash (photo credit: Benedicte Wolfe)

Nicole Farhi.

Fashionistas flocked to the fun fete, including **Hollye Jacobs, Beverley Jackson, Amanda Masters, Corinna Gordon, Susan Bridges, Brian Hodges, Gerald Incandela, George Schoellkopf, Kimberly Phillips, Elizabeth Sugarman, and Laura Ciel...**

Bo & BBQ

Having conquered the Bosphorus a year ago, swimming the four-mile distance between Europe and Asia from Istanbul, actress **Bo Derek** tells me she is looking for another endurance opportunity in Greece later this year.



Kari Lloyd-Markowitz, Charles Ward, and Jennifer Schultz (photo by Priscilla)

The 57-year-old *10* actress, who lives in Santa Ynez, was one of 180 guests for an Argentine barbecue bash thrown by Texan tycoon **John Muse**, patron of the Lucchese polo team, which has won the Bombardier Pacific Coast Open three times with

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Hosts John and Lyn Muse with Justin Klentner and Amanda Masters (photo by Priscilla)



Daniel and Marsy Gonzales, Gloria and Glen Holden, and Bo Derek (photo by Priscilla)



Rita Hortonsstine, Edmond Guerrand-Hermes, and Carol Anne Bundy at the Argentine barbecue (photo by Priscilla)



Jeff Hall, Toni Simon, and Madison Richardson enjoy the boot bash (photo by Priscilla)

the world's number-one player, Argentinian **Adolfo Cambiasso**, on the team, at the Santa Barbara Polo Club.

The Dallas-based entrepreneur, who is also an investor in the top fashion brand **Michael Kors**, fittingly enough, won the USPA Lucchese Silver Cup final, just 48 hours later after an exciting match with fellow Texan, Houston-based **Scott Wood's** ERG team, with John's players winning a sudden-death playoff, 15-14.

Among those sole searching at the

boffo boot bash – Lucchese is one of the oldest brands in the U.S. – were **Glen and Gloria Holden, Madison Richardson and Toni Simon, Justin Klentner and Amanda Masters, Carol Anne Bundy, Leigh Brecheen, June Chadwick, Edmond Guerrand-Hermes, Richard and Annette Caleel, Henry and Rita Hortonsstine, Pat and Ursula Nesbitt, Jake and Luke Klentner, Chris and Mindy Denson, Bilal Zarif, Bill and Sandi Nicholson, and Jeep Holden.**

Country singer and songwriter

David Nail and his band entertained the merry throng...

Pondering the Plague

What better way of spending the sunny summer days than studying the subject of the Black Death, one of the most devastating pandemics in human history, at Oxford University?

That's exactly what globe-trotting Montecito publisher **Bill Tomicki**, whose *Entree* newsletter covers some of the world's toniest hotels and resorts, did earlier this month, returning to one of the city's oldest colleges, Christ Church, built by Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey in 1524.

Bill, who was last there two years ago studying *The Human Brain*, lived in the dorms with one hundred other scholars, when he wasn't sneaking off to savor the menu at **Raymond Blanc's** five-star eatery, Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, in the picture-postcard village of Great Milton.

"It was, not surprisingly, a very depressing subject, given the millions of people killed by it in the fourteenth century," says Bill. "I actually went to a performance of *King Lear* to cheer myself up!"

Prior to attending the college, Bill fueled up at some of London's better eateries and, by coincidence, was seated at Nobu, adjacent to his next-door neighbor **David Crane**, one of the creators of the hit TV series *Friends*, who was dining with actor **Matt LeBlanc**...

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According the Hanebisho website, the tissue feels "as if your skin is being gently bathed in silk."

Don't all rush...

Sightings: Oscar winner **Jeff Bridges** checking out Lazy Acres... Veteran rocker **Peter Noone** noshing at the Natural Café... Actor **Jason Segel** at Milk & Honey

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings and other amusing items for Richard's column should e-mail him at richardmineards@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the Journal

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