

MISCELLANY (Continued from page 7)

Ted, a Yale graduate, who has written much lauded biographies of Winston Churchill – a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 1983 –, William S. Burroughs and Franklin D. Roosevelt, lives in New York and has authored more than 15 books...

Royal Chatter



Prince Harry was recently in New York, where he visited cadets at West Point and threw the first pitch at a Mets game

The rumor mill has been churning afresh about an imminent engagement announcement between **Prince William** and his longtime galpal, **Kate Middleton**.

Middleton has reportedly given up her job with her family's internet party planning business and now spends much of her time at William's home in North Wales while he trains to be a Royal Air Force search-and-rescue helicopter pilot.

The tony twosome, both 28, have now been together for nine years, since they first met as students at St. Andrews University in Scotland. Given the length of their relationship, she has been amusingly dubbed "Waity Katie."

I have no doubt such an announcement will be forthcoming from Buckingham Palace or Clarence House – Prince Charles' home – in due course.

But, for now, it's wait and see.

In the meantime, William's soldier brother, **Harry**, 25, did an excellent job on his recent visit to New York, visiting cadets at West Point, pitching the first ball at the Mets baseball game and raising money for his Lesotho children's charity, Sentebale, and playing in the third annual Veuve Clicquot Manhattan Polo Classic on Governor's Island, where tables for ten on the sideline were going for \$50,000.

Harry, I'm told, is still getting over the death of his favorite polo pony, Drizzle, a ten-year-old brown mare, who collapsed and died of a heart attack during a game a few weeks back...

Green Solutions

Montecito event planner extraordinaire, **Merryl Brown**, known for her Earth-conscious bashes, has been nominated for the prestigious International Special Events Society Esprit Awards for "Best Green Solution."

The party was for the Community Environmental Council's Green Gala at the Rockwood Woman's Club last year, an elegant funfest I had the pleasure of attending.

Some 415 pounds of waste was collected, with 90 percent being recycled or composted.

Who knew?...

That's some dough!

A recession be damned!

An English baker has just come up with what must be the world's most expensive bread, at \$32 a loaf.

Known as the Shepherd's Loaf, the hand-crafted bread uses organic Somerset spelt flour, Cotswolds spring water, Cornish sea salt and a top-secret half century old sourdough recipe.

The creator, **Tom Herbert**, 33, a fifth-generation baker, is selling more than 100 every week by mail-order from his family's shops near the town of Tetbury, just a trot or two from **Prince Charles'** home, Highgrove.



Actress **Elizabeth Hurley** and artist **Damien Hirst** are among his customers.

It may be described as "the ultimate bread," but make sure you have a lot of dough...

Sightings: **Natalie Portman** checking out the pastries at Jeannine's on Coast Village Road...**Billy Baldwin** and wife, **Chynna Phillips**, chowing down at Lucky's...**Kenny Loggins** digging into the pasta at Olio e Limone...

Pip! Pip! for now

Readers with tips, sightings and amusing items for Richard's column should e-mail him at richardmineards@verizon.net *My*

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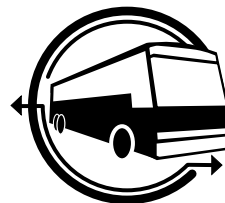
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