

Peopletalk *By Karen Feld*

Socialites supporting the National Center for Therapeutic Riding, a nonprofit organization that conducts riding classes for the disabled, were treated to a relaxing Sunday in the lush Virginia horse country. It began with a brunch at Sen. **John W. Warner's** 19th-century Atoka Farm in Middleburg, followed by a Spanish festival and dressage exhibition of Andalusian horses at attorney **Hector Alcade's** nearby Takaro Farm.

A handful of the guests were surprised when the Virginia senator took them into what was once his European library, which he has converted to an artist's studio. He revealed his new avocation, which he took up just months ago. Characterizing himself as a "mud-dauber," referring to his style, the Republican senator showed off a couple of works in progress — oil paintings of irises from his garden.

"It's not good enough to sell," he explained modestly. "My first wife was a painter, you know." Of course, that was

Catherine Mellon, not **Liz Taylor**. Everyone was displaying their best manners, so the star deliberately wasn't mentioned that day.

There's buzz that TV-and-radio talker **Larry King**, who has been to the altar some half-dozen times, can't seem to make marriage work. He married **Julie Alexander**, the pretty blond legal-eagle headhunter, just months ago after proposing to her on the first date. But they haven't been caught smooching lately on the Amtrak train between Washington and Philadelphia, where she lives. The picture is rocky, say insiders.

The Rockefeller family is using its best efforts to fill Sen. **John D. Rockefeller 4th's** campaign coffers. In what's becoming a family tradition, the West Virginia senator's uncles, **David** and **Laurence**, and his mom, **Blanchette**, are hosting a \$1,000-a-head fund-raising event at Pocantico Hills, the Rockefeller family estate in New York. Ironically, not many of the Democratic senator's constituents from

West Virginia will attend. Many aren't likely able to afford the stiff tab, but admirers in New York and Connecticut are pitching in to support his re-election.

Minneapolis lawyer **Ted Mondale**, son of the former vice president, has politics in his blood. He's running for the state Senate in Minnesota. His parents, **Walter** and **Joan Mondale**, will show their support for his candidacy at a fund-raising event this week at the Georgetown home of **Mrs. Alfred Friendly**, widow of the one-time editor of the Washington Post.

"Our records don't sell in Eastern Europe, mostly because they don't pay royalties," folk singer **Mary Travers** explained the other evening at the National Museum for Women in the Arts, where she was performing to benefit the D.C. Jewish Community Center.

Mary, of Peter, Paul and Mary, may look older, but not much else about her has changed. Still political, she likes to talk about her daughter who married a Republican. She invited the couple over a

few years ago with **Daniel Ortega** when he was in New York City. "I had three-quarters of the Nicaraguan government in my living room, and I couldn't find my son-in-law. What was he doing? He was on the balcony discussing skeet shooting with a Secret Service man."

Former California congresswoman **Yvonne Braithwaite Burke** and her husband, **Bill Burke**, organizer of the Los Angeles marathon, had a curious experience recently on Santa Catalina Island, Calif., where they own a condo. The Burkes anchored their 40-foot sport fisher at a popular island restaurant in Avalon. They went to claim their reservation, but it wasn't honored. Instead, it was suggested to them that perhaps they should visit another establishment. Could the fact that they are black, they wondered, have anything to do with it?

Janis Johnson is on vacation. Her "Washington Peopletalk" column will resume when she returns.