



**Karen Feld**

# Trump alert on Coronado

Donald Trump and Marla Maples were spotted on Coronado Island, across the bridge from San Diego. That's the story as told by one employee at the century-old Hotel del Coronado.

The unconfirmed Trump-Maples sighting allegedly occurred shortly after their relationship was made public and Marla was reported to be in seclusion. The couple rarely left their oceanfront suite except for quiet walks along the surf of the sandy white beach.

The elegant Coronado Hotel, designated a national historic landmark, has been the shooting location for many films including the 1958 blockbuster, "Some Like It Hot." Marilyn Monroe was a guest there at that time. The "Del" has been a vacation favorite of presidents and was used by Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan for official functions including the 1986 trade summit.

It's also historically been a romantic hideaway; King Edward VIII abdicated his throne to marry a Coronado housewife he met there when he was the prince of Wales. Oh, how very romantic.



Michael Reagan, the ex-president's son, author and San Diego talk show host, hasn't given up his real love — racing. He's scheduled to travel to Venice next weekend to compete in the Venezia-Monte Carlo 1990, an international speedboat race around the Italian peninsula.



Penthouse magazine reports that former President Richard Nixon, while making small talk with the chef at a restaurant where he was dining, asked if the chef had bet on the Tyson-Douglas heavyweight fight. When the chef told President Nixon he wasn't a betting man, the former president replied: "They're all fixed anyway."

□ □ □

Marriages aren't always made in heaven, even ones that sound like fairy tales. Divorce proceedings are tres messy between Nini Gore Auchincloss Steers Straight and William Whitney's grandson, Michael Straight, one-time owner of the "New Republic."

The numbers and the glamour don't match up to that of Donald and Ivana, but the family pedigrees help weave a fascinating tale, rumblings of which can be heard from Martha's Vineyard to the south of France. Nini is the half sister of Gore Vidal, and the granddaughter of Oklahoma's first senator, Tom Gore. Her two stepsisters, Jackie Kennedy Onassis and Lee Bouvier Radziwill, married a president and a prince respectively. Nini married a congressman. Shortly after her divorce from Maryland Rep. Newton Steers, she remarried, this time to one of the groomsmen in their wedding — Michael Straight.

Straight's family is prominent too. Not only is he a Whitney, but his sister is Oscar-winner Beatrice Straight, and he's a not-too-distant cousin of Gloria Vanderbilt. Straight, who has penned books, including "After a Long Silence" about his role in the Communist spy ring in the '30s, reaps more than \$1 million annually from his mother's \$80 million trust. But he isn't eager to share much of it.

Straight's attorneys have tried to persuade Nini to sign a document severely limiting her financial rights, say insiders. Straight left Nini and his homes in Washington and on Martha's Vineyard with Pauline Caffee, his sometime housekeeper and cook.

While staying in West Palm Beach, Nini finally signed the agreement. Then Michael informed her through attorneys that he wants a new contract. Stay tuned for more on this saga.

*These are the "Capital Connections."*