
MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, gossip on The Joan Rivers Show and Geraldo Rivera, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, a commentator on the KTLA Morning News and Entertainment Tonight. He moved to Montecito 14 years ago.

55 Years Later, Unearthing the Truth?

Santa Barbara author **Peter Lance's** meticulous reporting for his book *Homicide at Rough Point* detailing the killing of designer Eduardo Tirella by wealthy tobacco heiress Doris Duke at her Newport, Rhode Island, estate in 1966 has led to the case being reopened by local law authorities who initially ruled it an accident after just 96 hours of investigation.

Lance, 73, a graduate of Columbia Journalism School and a former reporter for ABC Network News, including *20/20* and *Nightline*, had the book excerpted in *Vanity Fair*. Afterwards a former paper boy, **Bob Walker**, a 68-year-old Marine Corps

veteran, came forward saying he witnessed Duke — who died in 1993 in Beverly Hills aged 80 — murdering Tirella by deliberately driving into him twice with a heavy station wagon.

Duke claimed she had inadvertently hit the gas pedal instead of the brake.

Walker, who was 13 at the time, had previously only shared his story with close family, having been warned not to talk about it by his father, who feared he would be killed to silence him.

Lance, a multi-E Emmy winner, is also a Visiting Scholar at the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies at UCSB.