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The Chatter Box

Does Jackie Have a New Heart Interest?

By Igor Cassini and Liz Smith

Those stories about Jackie Onassis having a romance with German movie star Helmut Berger are just so much bologna. If Jackie sees Helmut, it's because he is a bizarre and amusingly decadent new friend (introduced to Mrs. O. by sister Lee) but it's no more a "romance" than Jackie's friendships with other arty types such as Rudi Nureyev or Truman Capote.

The one to have the biggest laugh in such matter is Ari Onassis himself. He approves of his much younger wife going out and amusing herself in the international set.

Frank Sinatra may be sizzling over his daughter Tina's latest romance with Hollywood hairdresser Hugh York, but we don't think Ol' Blue Eyes needs to worry so much. This isn't likely to be serious either . . . Spiro Agnew is about to acquire a round sixteen Kentucky coal mines — all bought with money from foreign business associates for whom the former VP fronts.

Ron Ziegler's recent defense of Richard Nixon didn't surprise anybody who'd been talking to him lately. Privately, the onetime press secretary says of his famous boss: "He's dying!" . . . Maggie Smith, the Oscar-winning English actress, is finding happiness again with a longtime friend, Beverly Cross, an award-winning writer. They have known each other for years, even before Maggie's marriage to Robert Stephens and now, again, after it.

New York's Beautiful Brigade is half out of its mind with joy that when Marisa Berenson (former model, now actress) marries car heir Rikki von Opel, they'll make their home in Manhattan.

Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia's husband, Neil Balfour — who was dumped for Richard Burton — is seeing Lady Jane Wellesley, who used to run about with Prince Charles. All these people have known one another for dogs' years, and so it isn't odd that they all eventually get around to one another.

Sarah Miles has decided Hollywood is much nicer than living in Great Britain so she is among the artists deserting England because of taxes . . . The French "Gallie" Poll seems to approve of President Giscard d'Estaing. Only seven per cent of French women criticized his nocturnal habits (84 per cent approved) and nine per cent of the men were against the president as opposed to 82 per cent for him. So keep on keeping on, M. President.

Ex-Queen Soraya may be 42-years-old, but she isn't

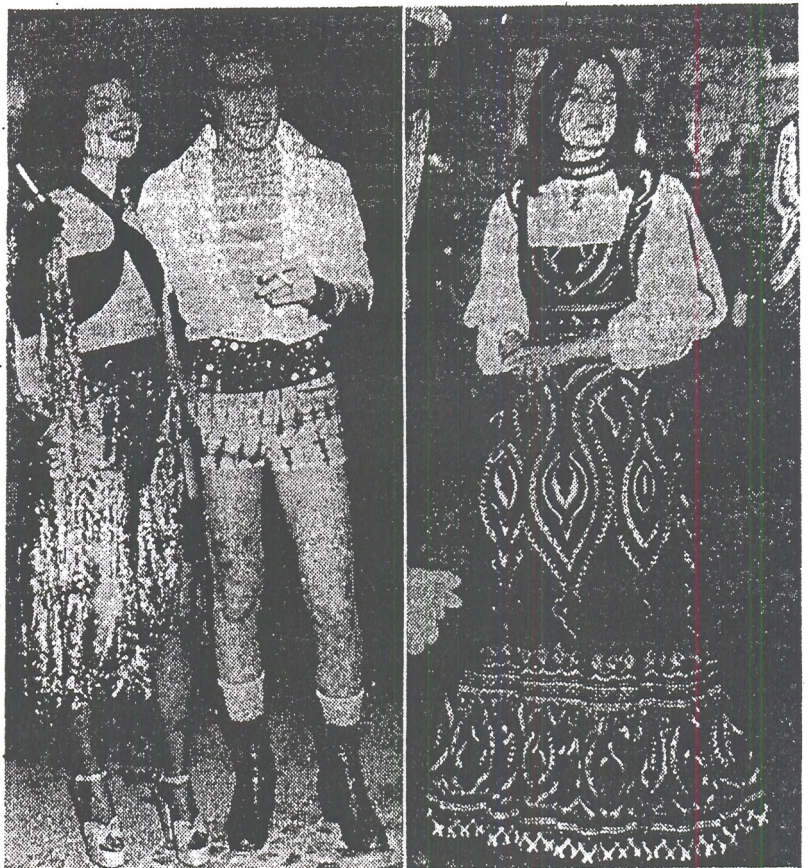
letting that keep her from cutting up a few touches. The onetime wife of the Shah of Iran can be seen almost nightly at Rome's exclusive Jackie O nightclub with escort Francisco Napolitano, who is twenty years her junior.

Freshest best act we've seen of late is Holly Woodlawn's at Reno Sweeney's in New York. This Puerto Rican-Jewish transvestite movie star (Trash), who escaped from the Andy Warhol stable to make a name for himself/herself, is really funny (not just campy). When Holly decides to tell you the story of Lana Turner in *The Prodigal* while wearing Lana's old dress, it's much better than some of the biggest acts we've seen of late on the Tonight Show. Even if New York has lost Max's Kansas City, there is still a big revival of nightlife and if you want to go where the action is, you'll go to Reno Sweeney's down on Thirteenth street.

Elton John says the biggest boot of his life was meeting Mae West and discovering that in real life she talks just exactly the way she talked in films . . . Susan Sarandon, who did some airplane wire-walking in "The Great Waldo Pepper" with Robert Redford, says she and the superstar will meet again. She claims she

and Redford are going to learn to walk the tightrope and work the trapeze together in order to make a circus movie.

Cary Grant knows how to make a girl happy. For Christmas, the 71-year-old gave his 27-year-old Maureen Donaldson a gift of her parents for the holidays. He flew them from London to California to see their daughter. This romance between Cary and Maureen has lasted over eighteen months now — and they said it wouldn't.



Romantic rumors are flying about Lady Jane Wellesley (right) and Helmut Berger (here with Bianca Jagger)



Actress Maggie Smith may have found "new happiness"