That Madame Ganna Walska was an object of much attention in person and in the press is well known. She, herself, employed a clipping service to glean every instance in which her name appeared in print. Sometimes she was responsible for releasing studio photos, along with her concert and opera appearances, that later appeared in the news. Many times, though, a newspaper reporter would snap a photo (sometimes even posed) of Madame Walska as she was traveling or on an opening night for a performance.

In the pre-digital age, these photos could become part of the stock in trade for photo agencies such as Underwood and Underwood, Acme Newspictures, Inc. (later bought out by United Press International–UPI), or Associated Press. Smaller newspapers without their own leagues of reporters would print these stock photos with an appropriate caption or column on the newsworthy event of the moment. Thus, a studio picture of Madame Walska holding her cat could illustrate the fact that she was soon to sail to Europe after suddenly resigning from the Chicago Opera Company.

Many of these photos survive to this day and are finding their way onto the market from various sources. In the past, they might have been relegated to bins of prints in the dusty recesses of specialty antique stores, but with the advent of online commerce, many are surfacing on sites such as eBay and other companies specializing in vintage prints. Original prints usually have the stamp of the news agency on the back and may also include information about the photographer. The photos are interesting by themselves, but very often they also have a tag on the back that includes a caption or biographical information:

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**
Now you see them and now you don’t! Here is where a Daily News photographer caught up with the elusive Harold F. McCormick as the former Ganna Walska and the harvester magnate left for California following their remarriage in Lake Forest Feb. 13. Wed first in Paris, they were united in a second ceremony to conform to the laws of Illinois.

Ganna Walska off to conquer Paris alone when Harold F. McCormick leaves ship suddenly. The above photo shows Harold F. McCormick and his temperamental wife, Ganna Walska, as they appeared aboard the liner Paris Saturday morning just before it sailed. A few minutes after the above photo was taken Mr. McCormick was seen to rush down the gangplank, leaving Ganna to sail alone for Paris, where she will again attempt to win the favor of music critics with a performance of Madame Butterfly in the Champs Elysees Theater, which her husband bought for her. Their sudden parting was a surprise to all. [dated Jan. 18, 1926]

AT THE BEAUX ARTS BALL

Mme. Ganna Walska, noted opera star, former wife of Harold McCormick of Chicago, and Michel Detroyat, famous aviator, known as the Lindbergh of France, shown as they attended the annual gala Beaux Arts Ball held at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria, New York City, on the evening of January 19th, 1934.
Mme. Ganna Walska Entertaining in Her Paris Theatre

Two hundred persons including many prominent in the diplomatic, social and theatrical worlds were the guests of Mme. Ganna Walska today on the stage of the Theatre Champs Elysées. Left to right—Mme. Broglie, of the Paris Opera, Baronesse Ola de Beaufort, Letitia Cairone, of the Scala de Milan, Vina Cairone, vocal member, Vava Jacovleva, of the Paris Opera Comique, Mme. Ganna Walska, Cora Laparcerie, Richpin well known French actress, Mme. Mary Costes, wife of transatlantic aviator, Mlle. Lina Gutina, Mme. Spire, Helena Cairone, Rene Cairone, composer. [ACME Nov. 18th, 1934]

Director's Letter

While traditional festivities fill the winter solstice season all over Earth, at Ganna Walska Lotusland we celebrate our many accomplishments with gratitude and thanks to all of you, who have supported our work to preserve one of the world’s most important gardens and plant collections. In 2012 we restored the blue garden to its former silvery-azure patina. We also restored the famous George Washington Smith benches in the water garden—the first step in restoring the allée on the north end of the lotus pool. You joined us for an exhibit of Madame Walska’s collections and keepsakes, most of which were seen by the public for the first time, and you joined us for our first Plant Auction and Sale. You supported our most successful Lotusland Celebrates gala event, Ooh La La Lotusland, and you helped support another year of our acclaimed Fourth-grade Outreach Program which instills a profound understanding of plants and a life-long appreciation for the importance of plants in our lives. We added critically rare species of cycads and other plants to the collections, and we launched yet another intern into a career in sustainable horticulture. Thank you for your many contributions—you helped make 2012 a great year for Lotusland!

Even as we celebrate these successes, we are deep in planning for 2013. We will open the garden with a newly restored Neptune fountain in the parterre garden. At the same time, we will launch our most ambitious exhibit to date, Swarm: A Collaboration with Bees. This multi-media exhibit celebrates the importance of honeybees with a focus on the interspecies relationships and dependencies between plants and animals, especially humans—a message that is core to our mission. While you enjoy the bloom of spring flowers, and the unfurling of the bright, new leaves in the Japanese garden, we will be behind the scenes, putting the finishing touches on a comprehensive plan for that garden’s restoration—more details to come this summer. Please mark your calendars for a visit while the lotuses bloom from late June through August, and to join the fun during our lively Plant Auction and Sale, back by popular demand in September.

These are only a few of the events, activities and experiences happening at Lotusland in 2013. Watch for updates in our future newsletters and e-bulletins. As always, we are dedicated to the preservation and restoration of this important, historic garden, while also ensuring it is relevant and meaningful to you and our community, now and for the future. Please join us often in 2013, in sharing, supporting and enjoying this magnificent botanical treasure.

Warm regards,
Gwen L. Stauffer
JUST ONE HUNDRED YEARS ago, Madame Ganna Walska, then the estranged wife of Arcadie d’Eingorn, was dazzling the Russian aristocracy with her classic Slavic beauty. Or so goes the story that led Czar Nicolas II to commission a portrait of her by the well-respected painter Victor Karlovich Shtemberg. The life-size portrait (4’x6’) of the young woman dressed in a blue gown, white fur coat and pearls, seated in front of an artistically draped background, shows a coquettish side of her personality. As the Russian empire crumbled in 1914, Madame Walska fled to Paris, and even though some minor adjustments to the painting had not been completed by the artist, she was able to include the portrait in her possessions. It must have moved a number of times in the intervening years as it was hanging at her Lotusland home at the time of her death.

Madame Walska’s niece, Hania P. Tallmadge, inherited the portrait. It hung in her Montecito home for many years until recently when she put it on permanent loan to Lotusland. After one hundred years, the painting was in need of cleaning and stabilizing. Local experts cleaned the years of accumulated grime from the painting, applied a protective coating over the original oil, and repaired and reinforced the ornate bronze-finished frame. Because of Ms. Tallmadge’s generosity, it is once again hanging in the drawing room of the house, where Madame Walska seems to have her eye on her beloved Lotusland.

—Virginia Hayes

COLLECTIONS NEWS
Czar’s Portrait

Aloe Outing
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
1:00 TO 3:30 PM

ALOES DISPLAY their spectacular blooms when most plants are dormant during the winter months—and when Lotusland is closed for public tours. This opportunity to spend an afternoon in the garden and enjoy more than 170 species and cultivars of aloes during the winter recess is a special privilege for members and their guests only.

Admission is $25 for members and $35 for non-members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.

Membership Corner
MEMBERS MAY BRING GUESTS EVERY THURSDAY FOR 40% OFF THE ADULT ADMISSION

WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE you to share this amazing garden with your friends and family...every Thursday, during our regular tour season, you may bring your adult guests for $21, a substantial savings over the regular $35 admission price. You may choose either a self-guided or a docent-guided tour for you and your guests. Perhaps a visit to the garden with you will persuade your friends and family to become members too so they can enjoy the wealth of benefits that a Lotusland membership brings.

Tour reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990. We appreciate your help!
LoTUSLAND COUNTS ON our colonies of both wild and kept hives as pollinators and contributors to our sustainable horticulture program. In our 2013 exhibition in the Pavilion, we celebrate bees with a provocative display of artistic interpretations of bees and hive culture. It includes two-dimensional contemporary art, sculpture, dance and film created by several artists, both local and from further afield.

Penelope Stewart is creating a bas relief “beescape” from beeswax tiles on the Pavilion walls with designs inspired by plants at Lotusland. Ethan Turpin and Jonathan Smith will build a six-sided “bee cell” with images of bees projected on walls of cloth screens so visitors feel as though they are inside a bee hive. Selections from Stephanie Wilde’s ongoing body of work, “The Golden Bees,” created in response to the recent, unexplained disappearance of the western honeybee, will be on view, as will works by Rose-Lynn Fisher, Keith Puccinelli and Anna Vaughan. Some of the pieces will be for sale, with a portion of proceeds going to Lotusland.

Members may see the exhibition at no charge when scheduling a self-guided tour or docent-guided tour. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990. Admission for nonmembers is adults $35; ages 5 through 18, $10; age 4 and under, free.

A Salon with Penelope Stewart
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23
3:00 PM

Toronto-based artist Penelope Stewart will talk about her work and what inspires it and will give a PowerPoint presentation about how she created the mind-boggling bas relief beeswax tile installation for Swarm: A Collaboration with Bees. A reception will follow.

Ms. Stewart received her BFA from York University in Toronto, Ontario, and her MFA from SUNY in Buffalo, New York. The recipient of many awards and grants, she has shown her work internationally in numerous solo exhibitions and large installations, as well as in group exhibitions.

Admission is $45 for members and $55 for nonmembers. Advance reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.

Vanishing of the Bees
NARRATED BY ELLEN PAGE
THURSDAY, MARCH 21 • 3:00 PM

Q&A AFTER THE FILM WITH CO-DIRECTORS MARYAM HENEIN AND GEORGE LANGWORTHY

Filming across the U.S. and in Europe, Australia and Asia, this documentary examines the alarming disappearance of honeybees and the greater meaning it holds about the relationship between mankind and mother earth. As scientists puzzle over the cause, organic beekeepers indicate alternative reasons for this tragic loss. Conflicting opinions abound, and after years of research, a definitive answer has not been found to this harrowing mystery. A reception will follow the question and answer session.

Admission is $40 for members and $50 for nonmembers. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 805.969.9990.
ED AND JUDY SHEA

Ed Shea was born in Michigan in 1921, but at the tender age of seven, his parents moved him and his older sister to the west coast. They traveled along a dusty dirt road known as Route 66, ultimately to crash—literally—in front of a Los Angeles hotel they would call home. The trip was an adventure, made even more exciting by his grandfather’s concern that the entire family would be scalped by Indians along the way, and it planted a seed of wanderlust that remains deep in Ed’s core, 83 years later.

Ed came of age during the depression. “Everyone was poor then,” Ed told me, “and if you wanted something you had to work for it, and if you wanted to go somewhere you had to take the streetcar or walk.” While attending school, Ed worked a number of odd jobs, even rising before dawn to help deliver milk. Ed explained, “I learned how to work in those hard times.” By the time he graduated from high school in 1939, he had saved enough money to buy a Model A Ford, but had to take delivery of it since he didn’t know how to drive! That didn’t stop him, and soon he was exploring Yosemite and then the Sierras, which he continued to traverse over the next 60 years. His deep love for the great outdoors led Ed to another enduring hobby of landscape photography.

Ed graduated from USC with a degree in chemical engineering and then, because of his degree, entered the Army Air Force as a cadet. Upon completion of his basic training, Ed became a second lieutenant and then was promoted to first lieutenant. He was assigned to the 8th Air Force, flying B24 bombers over England. On one mission, his plane was hit and Ed had to bail out, landing conveniently in a British women’s military camp. “They were very charming and served me tea,” Ed says with a grin, “so I asked them to hide me there. I didn’t want to leave!”

After the war, his compelling desire to travel and photograph wild places led him to drive to Alaska on the recently opened Alcan Highway. Finding satisfaction in his work was more elusive, but he found his inspiration when his mother starting caring for the elderly, who had no access to other care-givers. In 1950, Ed built and operated a nursing home in Claremont, California. Ed became a pioneer in the design of convalescent hospitals and specialized wellness programming for seniors, eventually developing 14 facilities in the western United States.

While working and living in Palm Springs in 1987, Ed met Judy, who shared his conviction that hard work paid off, but she also enjoyed travel, having visited all of Europe. She and Ed married and began a lifetime journey, traveling to most of the countries of the world. Since Ed was interested in the landscape, and Judy was interested in the culture, they took turns choosing their destination, which sent them to intriguing places like Antarctica and Papua New Guinea. They needed a place to land between trips and selected Santa Barbara, where Ed had passed through during business trips.

Ed and Judy first visited Lotusland when they attended a fund-raiser for the Santa Barbara Symphony and won a tour of Lotusland in the silent auction. Despite visiting innumerable gardens as they traveled the world, they were stunned by Lotusland’s beauty. “We had never seen any garden like Lotusland,” both Ed and Judy say. “It is so unique—a world-class garden, but a hidden gem in Santa Barbara.” Judy told me, “I love the lotuses,” while Ed marveled at the diversity of the cycad collection and declared his fondness for the abalone pool in the aloe garden. Their admiration for Lotusland led them to include Lotusland in Ed’s 80th birthday celebration, by renting an Old Town Trolley to drive their party-goers from the Biltmore to Lotusland for a tour. “They all just raved about the gardens,” Judy exclaims.

Ed and Judy became members of Lotusland after that first tour and have been enduring supporters ever since. We are so very grateful to Ed and Judy, for their passion for gardens and for Lotusland, and for their lasting gift to Lotusland’s endowment through The Lotus Society.

NEW MEMBERS

THANK YOU TO THESE additional new members for their generous support.

Sandra H. Russell and James P. Foster
Mark Livanc
Linda and Dennis Sullivan
Laurie A. Wolf

Members of The Lotus Society have each made a gift or bequest of $10,000 or more to Lotusland’s Endowment. Names of The Lotus Society members are engraved on the Wall of Honor, which is located at the Visitor Center at the end of the Australian tea tree arbor.

To learn more about The Lotus Society, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland’s Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.
Horticultural Happenings

NEPTUNE FOUNTAIN RENOVATION

BEFORE A RENOVATION of the basin and installation of a re-circulating pump in 1996, potted plants were displayed in the Neptune fountain because the basin could not hold water. Recently, regular maintenance of the Neptune fountain revealed leaks saturating and deteriorating the cement structure of the fountain. Lotusland’s maintenance staff worked with DaRos Masonry to dry out the fountain walls, scrape away the loose material and clean the fountain’s tiles. The surface was then prepared for a new finish coat of plaster and color coat. As part of the restoration project, the statue of Neptune was removed for cleaning, and a soft water spigot was installed to help reduce the build-up of mineral deposits on the fountain’s surfaces.

MINIATURE CACTUS PLANTING BEDS RENOVATION

IN AN AREA ADJACENT to the main lawn, beneath the tall *Sequoia sempervirens* (coast redwood), is an area called the “miniature cactus” or “miniatures.” The name doesn’t refer to the size of the plants, but rather the size of the four planting beds in comparison to the extensive cactus beds along the main drive and, for that matter, the cactus garden installed in 2003. The origin of the “miniatures” is not definitively known. The plants in the area are of the Charles Glass and Bob Foster era, and may have been planted there in the 1970s. Recently, Lotusland’s bromeliad gardener, Mike Furner, initiated a project to renovate the “miniatures.” A few plants were removed and others were selectively trimmed and cleaned up before sand and compost were worked into the soil by hand. A top dressing of 3/8” black lava rock was added and cleaning the pathways and bordering bromeliad and *Doryanthes palmeri* beds completed the renovation.

MAIN DRIVE AGAVE RENOVATION

BEGINNING JUST INSIDE the Sycamore Canyon Road gate, the main drive is bordered by sedum, *Agave attenuata*, aloes and dracaenas almost all the way to the Japanese garden’s torii gate. It’s another iconic Lotusland landscape with the agaves seemingly turned toward the gate welcoming visitors as they begin their tour of the garden. The origins of this landscape are sketchy. Ralph Stevens designed the Sycamore Canyon gate when he worked at Lotusland in the 1950s, and it is most likely that he designed the entry landscape as well. Charles Glass supervised a renovation of the area in 1975–76 that included widening the driveway and replanting the agaves on a raised berm...a nice design feature as well as improving the growing conditions. Recently, Lotusland’s grounds superintendent, Esau Ramirez, directed a renovation of the area that included culling the agaves and removing selected background aloes, dracaenas and yuccas infringing on the agave berm. Many nice *Aloe salm-dyckiana* cuttings and hundreds of *A. attenuata* pups were salvaged during the renovation.

—Michael Iven

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL IVEN

Take a look at the renovated “miniatures” the next time you visit Lotusland.

Screened Lotusland compost was added to the soil by grounds staff as they thinned and replanted agaves along the main drive.
“When I die, I want to be used up and worn out!” is what Suzy Pelovsky says she lives by. We are so fortunate to have this energetic and talented woman volunteer her time and talent at Lotusland. I first met Suzy when we were both members of the docent class of 2006, and Suzy has volunteered continuously since then as both a regular and a Fourth Grade Outreach Program docent. She also greets visitors and helps arrange tour groups as one of our Tour Facilitators and is quick to say yes to special requests to work at our many events. When she’s not at Lotusland, you may find her at Cactus & Succulent Society meetings, making quilts as part of the Coastal Quilters Guild or ushering at the Granada or Lobero theaters. She is also active in her church, is a member of a book discussion group and helps prepare meals for Food from the Heart. One of her favorite volunteer activities is helping out one hour per week at Cold Spring School in her grandson’s first grade classroom.

Suzy graduated from Brigham Young University and taught high school home economics. She later obtained an elementary school teaching credential as well as a Master’s Degree in library science and worked as a high school librarian. She retired after 38 years of teaching and library work.

As Suzy’s two daughters, Heidi Whitney and Teri Gaither, and their families live in Santa Barbara, she decided to move from Visalia to Santa Barbara in 2004 after her husband passed away. Suzy and her husband had toured Lotusland while visiting their daughters when they were attending UCSB, and Suzy fell in love with the garden then. Now she has five grandchildren, two of whom live one block away from Lotusland!

“Learning all about Lotusland and the various gardens causes the endorphins to flow through every time I give a tour,” says Suzy. She believes that the “biophilia effect,” which is a theory that humans are endowed with a genetic link to nature—plants and animals—and that nature has a profound effect on our mental performance, self-awareness, vigor and appreciation of others and our environment is a true evidence of experiencing the joy of Lotusland. Just breathing in the healthy air surrounding the plants brings her great joy as does the obvious pleasure of students in our Outreach Program as well as words of appreciation from adult visitors at the end of her tours.

What a travel bug Suzy is. She has traveled to many countries including Thailand, China, India, Tahiti and New Zealand. Her latest destinations were the Panama Canal, where she learned that the Continental Divide in Lake Gatun causes the water to flow toward the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, and Bali, “a plant and people paradise.”

The epiphyllum garden is Suzy’s favorite garden because she is still amazed at how thick the leaves are and the fact that they can obtain all their growth from the air and the moisture within it. Suzy gives a big thank-you to Madame Walska for her foresight and effort in creating this fantastic garden. And we give a big thank-you to Suzy for her generous gifts of time and talent and for her passion for Lotusland.

—Kitty Thomassin
had always admired her and had seen her on stage in Chicago years before, praising her voice with great enthusiasm. Obviously he was not a music critic. I told her later that I met one of her admirers. She struck a vampish pose, hands on hip, leaning against one cane, and, feigning surprise, enquired coquettishly, “Oh! Do I still have any?” I said, yes, indeed, “He heard you sing in Chicago.” She dismissed that with, “Well, that’s possible. Usually they tell me they saw me at the Met, but I never sang there!”

Mme. Walska hated to receive gifts, undoubtedly realizing that every gift brought with it an obligation. To strangers she was always scrupulously polite in accepting their gift and would usually reciprocate with something of greater value. With friends and loved ones she could be brutal in her rejection of gifts. She realized she had to accept Christmas gifts from her employees but that was not so bad because she would be giving them Christmas bonuses which were in a sense gifts. Actually they were greater gifts than we knew! All the gardeners were concerned because these sizeable bonuses did not appear on their W-2 forms, and they didn’t declare them on their income tax returns and feared the day they might be caught, not realizing that Mme. Walska also paid the tax on these gifts so they were quite free of financial obligation to the I.R.S!

NEXT TIME

MORE STORIES FROM the Glass memoir.

—Excerpts edited by Virginia Hayes
Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

SEPTMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2012

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Winter and Spring 2013
Member Events

Many Lotusland events are open to nonmembers, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer.

Saturday, January 26
Aloe Outing
1:00 to 3:30 PM
See details on page 4. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, February 9
Morning Bird Walk at Lotusland
9:00 AM to Noon
See details on page 8. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Saturday, February 16
Garden reopens after winter recess.

Friday, February 22
Opening Reception for “Swarm: A Collaboration with Bees”
See details on page 5. Invitations will be mailed to members at the Garden Advocate level and above.

Saturday, February 23 to Saturday, May 4
Swarm: A Collaboration with Bees
See details on page 5.

Saturday, February 23
A Salon with Penelope Stewart
3:00 PM
See details on page 5. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

Thursday, March 21
The Vanishing of the Bees
3:00 PM
See details on page 5. Please call 805.969.9990 to register.

SAVE-THE-DATE
Saturday, April 13
Bees Circling Heaven, a dance performance with music by Ghost Tiger in the theatre garden.
Choreography: Robin Bisio.

Tours
Tours are offered at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM, Wednesday through Saturday from February 16 and November 15.
Family Tours, available for groups with children under age 10, are child and parent friendly. They are separate from regular adult tours. Please call 805.969.9990 for reservations.