



Photos courtesy Tere Carrubba

From left, Alfred Hitchcock, Princess Grace, an unidentified visitor and Alma Hitchcock enjoy a pleasant afternoon at the Hitchcock estate located in Scotts Valley.

Mysteries from family album are revealed

A good cause prompts Hitchcock's granddaughter to share photos with public

Bio-H
By PEGGY TOWNSEND
Sentinel staff writer

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TERE CARRUBBA reaches into a manila envelope and pulls out the yellowed photographs.

There's a picture of legendary film director Alfred Hitchcock sitting on an outdoor patio next to an elegantly dressed Princess Grace, as Prince Ranier smiles from behind a pair of sunglasses.

There's another photo of Hitchcock at the huge Mexican tile table where he entertained actors from Jimmy Stewart to Ingrid Bergman.

And one of Hitch standing proudly beside a mosaic of birds, no doubt inspired by his movie "The Birds."

Carrubba doesn't bring out the photos too often because Hitchcock, her grandfather, was a very private man.

But she thinks he would approve of using the images to promote a fund-raising walk for cystic fibrosis on Saturday, May 13.

Hitchcock knew that the defective gene which causes thick, sticky mucus to crush out the life of cystic fibrosis sufferers may have been somewhere in his own body.

His great-granddaughter, Melissa Stone, was born with the disease. Five years ago, Carrubba donated part of her lung to her niece to save the 15-year-old's life.

"I know he wouldn't mind using his name for this," said Carrubba, handing over Hitchcock's photos from her private collec-



The fabled director strikes a jovial pose at home in Scotts Valley.

Hitchcock

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"He knew Melissa had cystic fibrosis, and he kept saying 'What can we do? What can we do?'"

Carrubba is hoping these glimpses of Hitchcock's life will nudge people into finding out more about the disease and donating to the upcoming fund-raising walk in Santa Cruz.

The photos show the late director on his 200-acre estate in the Santa Cruz Mountains, which he owned from 1940 to 1979.

Built in a California-Spanish style, the house sat on a wooded hillside off Canham Road in Scotts Valley and featured arched doorways, a red-tiled roof and hand-hewed beams.

It was here Hitchcock came to escape the pressures and lifestyle of Los Angeles.

A gourmet cook and wine enthusiast, he delighted in inviting friends for a weekend that left them staggering away on Sunday, filled with fine food and drink.

Cocktail hour at his mountain retreat lasted a full hour and a half.

But it was family that Hitchcock really loved, Carrubba said.

He delighted in his grandchildren and his wife, Alma.

"They were so close," said Carrubba of her grandmother. "He would ask her opinion on everything."

Once, as Hitchcock screened the final print of his signature film, "Psycho," for studio bigwigs, Alma Hitchcock stunned everyone by announcing that the print could not be released to the public.

When Hitchcock asked why, his wife said that she had seen actress Janet Leigh breathe in the scene where she was supposed to be dead.

Hitchcock reviewed the print, saw Leigh had indeed breathed and cut out that part.

Carrubba, who lives in La Selva Beach with her husband and two children, remembers visiting her famous grandfather at his mountain retreat.

He always wore a suit and tie. "I guess it was his proper English behavior," Carrubba said.

He was a doting grandfather, wanting to know about every part of his two granddaughter's lives — even to the minutiae of how a McDonald's restaurant was run when Carrubba got a job there for the summer.

He loved horses, gardening, growing wine grapes and playing board games with his granddaughters.

In 1974 he sold his Santa Cruz home after Alma had a stroke. He died in 1980, just before his 81st birthday.

But Carrubba said Hitchcock will still be part of her fund-raising walk.

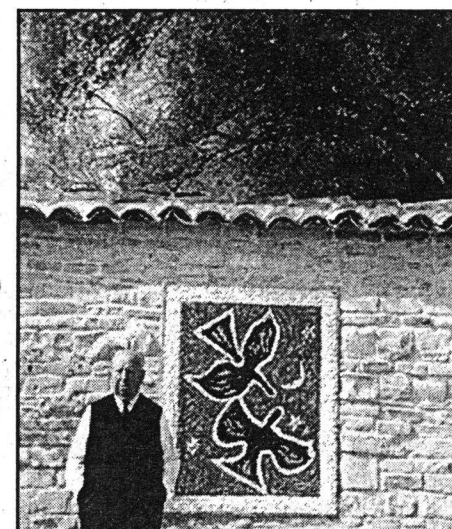
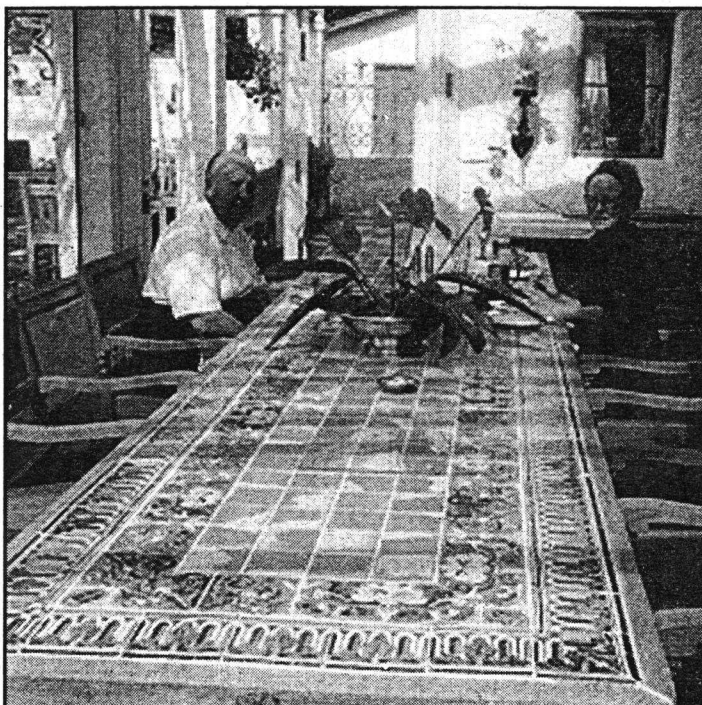
"He'll be there in spirit," she said.

The cystic fibrosis 10K walk is set for Saturday, May 13, at DeLaveaga Park. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:30. To participate, call 567-9450.

To sponsor Carrubba's walk, send checks made out to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to 330 Via Concha, Aptos, CA 95003.



Photos courtesy of Tere Corrubba



ON THIS PAGE: The upper, right, photo shows Prince Ranier, Princess Stephanie as a young girl, Princess Grace and Alfred Hitchcock in his solarium in Scotts Valley.

At lower right, Hitchcock stands before an adobe wall and bird mosaic at the estate.

At lower right, Hitchcock and his wife, Alma, sit at the table where they were known to throw lavish dinners for actors, directors, and other famous types.