

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 16, 1959

An Honor From Mallorca

We have received an unexpected honor in the form of a "Titulo de Miembro de Honor" in the "Association of Friends of Fray Junipero Serra." The notification comes in the form of an embellished card about 9 by 10 inches, written in Spanish, dated Nov. 24, 1958, and bearing our name and the Monterey Peninsula Herald, California.

A letter written in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, by Kellogg Van Winkel of San Francisco and Los Angeles gives this information: At the celebration of Fray Junipero Serra's 254th birthday in Petra, I had the honor to accept for you the attached "Titulo de Miembro de Honor" in the Association of Friends of Fray Junipero Serra.

"It is with real pleasure I pass the 'Titulo' on to you.

"Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden has sent you photos and newspaper articles descriptive of the affair, which was most interesting.

"With best wishes to you from the Association and from me, I am Sincerely yours, Kellogg Van Winkle." Another note from Mrs. Bowden reveals the fact that Mr. Van Winkle's grandfather was one of the founders of the Society of California Pioneers, the organization which recently assumed the care of Padre Serra's birthplace in Petra, for the City of San Francisco, the title holder of the property. The ancient home was presented to San Francisco several years ago by the Rotary Club of Mallorca, Saint Francis being the patron saint of Father Serra.

Others to receive the "Titulo" were John N. Rosekans, president of the "Society of California Pioneers," San Francisco; Chester R. MacPhee, chief administration officer de California; Don Gabriel Llado Torres, the Rev. Noel F. Moholy, vice postulador de la Causa; the Rev. Ower da Silva, O. F. M.; Don Jose Tous Ferrer, director que fue do "La Ultima Hora"; Don Juan Bonet, del diario "Balears."

The certificate of the honor is the artistic work of the Guasp Press on the island of Mallorca, the oldest press in continual operation in all Europe. The wreath of flowers and ornamentation which surrounds the printing has the appearance of being an ancient wood block. Mrs. Bowden's personal card is also from the same press.

The people of Petra are not the only ones who venerate the memory of Fray Junipero Serra. Under the inspiring leadership of a native Californian and a resident of Mallorca, Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden, Americans and Spaniards have banded together to form "Friends of Fray Junipero Serra," a society which is active in fermenting good will between Spain and the United States, the California Missions and The Friends, that the above honor came to us, and we are most appreciative and honored by the presentation of the membership.

One of the principal projects of the "Friends of Fray Junipero Serra" is the establishment in Petra of a museum and study center dedicated to Fray Junipero, the modest building in which it is located beside the Serra house. It is a charming center, designed in traditional Mallorcan architectural style to harmonize with the house.

When it is finished and outfitted it will house the ever-increasing number of historical objects, books and documents relating to Fray Junipero which are being accumulated and provide study space and a lecture hall for visitors and students.

The Center will furthermore offer its hospitality to many Californians making the pilgrimage to the birthplace of the Franciscan who symbolizes so much for the-Golden state. The building was erected with the aid of the generous contributions from the Spanish government, plus many donations; from Americans residing in Mallorca, and from Spaniards.

The people of California are invited to send contributions, however small, to Mrs. Bowden. Her address is Circulo de Bellas Artes, Conquistador 27, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Mrs. Bowden's visit to the Peninsula a number years ago may be recalled by many and also the exhibits she arranged both in Carmel and Monterey of the various crafts of the people of the Island of Mallorca and several treasures from the Serra birthplace. ~