

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 16, 1959

Letter from Mallorca

A letter from Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden of Mallorca, Spain, will, we are sure, be of interest here as a follow-up on the recent events held in Petra on the Island of Mallorca in memory of Father Junipero Serra. The actual birthplace of the founder of the California Mission chain was deeded to San Francisco a number of years ago by the Rotary club of Mallorca, and its support has been taken over by the California Pioneer society.

Mrs. Bowden writes: "You were much in our thoughts yesterday for I went to Petra to decide on bookcases for the library of Centro de Estudios with the president, Dr. Antonio Bauza. I went there with a distinguished Mallorcan who had not seen the centra and he was amazed at its beauty, dignity, and charm. Dr. Bauza deserves great credit for his initiative and faith in getting the centra to this point of completion. It is a worthy monument to the memory of Fray Junipero Serra. Now work has begun on the entrance wall and wrought iron gate. The funds for this were contributed by the members of the First Official Serra Pilgrimage and the gate will be called the Pilgrims' Gate.

"Your article in the Monterey Peninsula Herald will be placed in our album with the views of Monterey. It is heartening to know that we have such good friends in Monterey. (How I love that town!)" i

George W. Sims, owner of the Old Boronda Adobe in the Carmel Valley, writes: "Last year, while on my way to South Africa and the Middle East, I flew over to Mallorca especially to visit Petra. It so happened that I was privileged to be of some service to the museum and study center there and Dr. Roca presented me with a lovely piece of tile (of some possible 2,000 years age); one of the only four in existence at this time and excavated on the Island. The others are in the museum at Petra. During my visit the mayor of Petra honored me with the Titula de Membro de Honor in the association.

"Subsequently, it was my pleasure to have Mrs. Bowden as guest to dinner in Palma. It goes without saying that I enjoyed an evening of rare interest. Mrs. Bowden is a charming person whose knowledge of Father Berta's life and works, whose devoted efforts to perpetuate and honor them, is well-known to all of us who are so inclined. It pleased me to learn that she is still working

to increase interest in California in maintaining the worthy cause to which she has devoted herself for so many years."

The Rev. Francis F. McCarthy is the author of "The History of Mission San Jose, California," published by the Academy Library Guild, Fresno. The history takes in the years from 1797 to 1835.

Early in life the author learned that the only California mission about which a book had not been written was Mission San Jose. The historical book was finished shortly before his death in December 1948 while he was pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Oakland and just published by the Academy Guild. Raymond F. Wood edited the manuscript and added the epilogue covering the 1835-1855 period of the mission.

The price of "The History of Mission San Jose" is \$5.95 and may be secured by ordering from the Academy Library Guild, Box 549, Fresno, Calif.