

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

August 10, 1959

### **Mallorcan Ceremony**

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Aldous left their home in Carmel more than two months ago for a five-month visit and motor tour of many European countries. Mrs. Aldous reports that little did they dream of the singular honor which came to them shortly after their arrival upon the gorgeous island of Mallorca during the celebration of great historical importance - further cementing relationship of Mallorca to our own state of California. Mrs. Aldous has written an account of that event to us, thinking it would be of interest to all history loving Californians, unmindful of race, color or creed.

For 10 years an organization has been diligently working to preserve for posterity the birthplace of Fray Junipero Serra and now a very beautiful museum has been constructed to house his historical, legal and other fine documents pertaining to his life and great deeds. The museum has been finished and the fiesta and inauguration services were held there, in the little town of Petra, on Sunday, July 19, Mrs. Aldous writes.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldous were deeply honored, they report, to receive an official invitation to attend as representatives of the Monterey Peninsula, where Father Serra is buried at San Carlos de Monterey Mission, now known as Carmel Mission, founded by him in 1770.

"Petra is located inland from Palma about 35 miles. When we arrived," writes our correspondent, "the foreign, narrow streets were completely lined on both sides with friends and admirers of Padre Serra, awaiting the formal ceremony, which was proceeded by mass the in the lovely old cathedral of the town. At 12 o'clock, noon, the band struck up and led us, with truly distinguished personalities, through the streets to the small and humble house, the birthplace of the honored priest."

"Continuing, Mrs. Aldous writes: "The completely new, beautifully built and artistically designed museum is adjacent to the birthplace. The two-story building is set back from the street, so that a visitor is first greeted by the warmth and colors of a garden forecourt or patio - all in all a great compliment to the 'Friends of Serra' who have given years of planning, raising funds,

gathering data, as well as the arduous task of actually having built this historical gem.

"I am enclosing a letter given to me by one of the most deserving members, Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden, formerly of Berkeley and San Francisco, who has been kind enough to outline the outstanding features of the impressive inauguration and dedication ceremony, along with the names of the high personages who took part." She also mailed to us a printed and picture program giving further descriptions. This material we will use in a future diary.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldous report a European heat wave which started early in July and had not ended by July 28 when Mrs. Aldous' letter, was mailed from Palma. "Fortunately, we are six miles from the larger hotels, and some bit farther from the 350,000 populous, plus 2,000,000 added tourists of the City of Palma. Reaching this city and island by air is the easiest and most popular way, provided one has no car and not too much luggage. The main airport is the busiest in all of Spain. Only, last Sunday morning 4,700 people either left or arrived at this one field. Planes going all over the world leaving every five or 10 minutes. I was told today, that in a year it is expected that there will be a direct flight from California.

"In Paris we bumped right into Peter Johnston, also of Carmel. He and his family have an apartment there, with plans to spend several weeks here in Mallorca, later."