

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

August 12, 1959

Cave Concert

We give you today some "high-lights" or "by-lines" from the Island of Mallorca as written by Mrs. W. C. Aldous of Carmel, who, with Mr. Aldous, is traveling in Europe. At present they are in Palma and have visited Petra, the birthplace of Father Junipero Serra.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldous visited and had luncheon at the Formentor Hotel, said by many writers to be the most beautiful spot in the world. Mr. Fielding, the dean of travel writers, has his home there. At that time Charles Chaplin, his wife and their numerous children were guests. Also, the Royal Prince and Princess of Belgium were there on their honeymoon. The Peninsula travelers were in Brussels the day of the wedding and enjoyed seeing visiting guests and nobility collect in the lobby before their automobile procession to the cathedral.

"Our visit to the Dragon Caves at Cristo Porto was a never to be forgotten experience," Mrs. Aldous writes. "Said to be the largest and most beautiful caves in the world, it is a popular attraction. Only 800 others were expected to make the trip that afternoon. At the lowest level is a crystal clear lake. At the end of the tour, as though, we were seated in a theater, the lighting which rivals Hollywood's movie sets, is turned off and three electrically lighted gondolas appear carrying musicians. As they float in, around and back, we were given the most beautiful concert of classicals. One could have heard a pin drop - it was so spell binding. Then we were taken across the lake in gondolas to climb the steps taking us to the surface again."

At luncheon in the hotel there, Mrs. Aldous reported, was Adlai Stevenson with his son and daughter-in-law and the ex-Sen. Benton family. Sen. Benton was the host for an extended cruise by yacht to the Balearic Islands before going on to other interesting places in this old, old world of southern Europe.

The traveler also wrote that Spain has a strong "buy Spanish" policy. For instance, no one, for their personal use (not commercial which brings money in) may purchase any make of car but Spanish. Fruits, vegetables and meats are all Spanish, to say nothing of almost all the wines and brandies. Bourbon and Scotch is so rare and so highly taxed that it is over three

American dollars per drink. Their wines and brandies are excellent, the price of so-cheap- Spanish champagne is very good, just under a dollar per full quart.

The Napa County Historical Society and Napa Junior Historical Society have announced the dedication of the site of the John York Cabin, for Saturday, Aug. 22, 1959 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. at Calistoga. York was one of the oldest pioneers of Napa County.

Announcement has been made of a meeting of the Western Museums Conference to be held Oct. 9 through Oct. 11 at Asilomar, with the Monterey History and Art Association as the hosts. Members of the association will be asked to be hostesses at a dinner to be served in Memory Garden of the Pacific Building on Saturday. The opening afternoon, Oct. 9, there will be a reception at Mark Thomas Inn and a dinner that evening at Asilomar.

Don M. Muchmore, Museum of Science and Industry, Los Angeles, the president of the conference, has announced that Joseph A. Petterson, director of American Association of Museums, Washington, D. C., will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Simpson, state director of education, will speak on "A Challenge to the Museum's Educational Programs," and Donovan Worland of Chicago has also agreed to attend the conference and appear at the session on exhibit design and techniques. Another speaker, George Culler, associate director, San Francisco Museum of Art, will be heard at one of the general meetings. He will concern himself primarily with the field of art.

Vern Yadon, director of the Pacific Grove Museum and vice president of the conference, is in charge of the plans for the meeting at Asilomar.