

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 1, 1960

### **A Report From Spain**

Mary Greene reports from Spain. She has been enjoying most of November and December at Hotel Montemar, Torremolinos, Malaga, Spain. Our Spanish representative writes: "I lead a very lazy life here. There are a few Americans here, some English, Irish, Swedes, French - we sit in the lounge evenings as dinner is served late from 9 until 11 p.m., so we get to bed late and get up late, followed by shopping in Torremolinos a mile from here. Several times a week I drive to Malaga – about 20 minutes trip from the hotel.

"Weather seems as cool as Monterey, warm in the sun but cool in the shade. This is supposed to be the warmest spot in Spain but it is certainly much cooler than I expected. Torremolinos is a lot like Carmel with many little gift shops as well as markets. We see many Americans grocery shopping. I plan to drive to Gibraltar this week. We can make it in two and a half hours and the shopping is wonderful there with items from all European countries. It is a free port so you can buy cheaply.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Greene was still at Hotel Montemar and wrote: "There are about ten of us staying regularly in this nice hotel. Others come and go, but the ten of us are planning a nice Christmas party. We will draw names out of a hat so we have only one present to buy, but some of them are extra nice to me, so I will certainly see that they get something also. Then there are so many maids, three or four seem to do my room, three or four boys man the keys, mail and telephone – so of course they must be taken care of. On Christmas we will have turkey, cranberry sauce and plum pudding, so it will be something to celebrate Christmas on the Mediterranean. The stores are full of gifts and Christmas things here and every night groups of boys dressed in Spanish shepherd costumes, come with home-made tambourines – circles of tin fastened to wire hoops, drums made of large tin cans, with skin stretched across the top. Noise is made by pumping a rosined stick up and down through the center of the skin. They pump the can, bang the tambourines, then sing verses between times. They come every night, different groups usually carrying a can with a slot in the top to drop in money which is supposed to buy clothes

and food for the poor. Whatever the reason it is fun to watch and colorful.

"I hope to go over to Portugal for a few weeks after New Years, then will come back to Hotel Montemar before going to Majorca."

Mrs. Greene was the curator at the Old Custom House, Monterey, before her retirement several months ago. She spent some time in Mexico before going abroad.