

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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A Visit on Mallorca

Mrs. Mary L. Greene former curator of the Old Custom House in Monterey, who has been traveling in Europe for the past year, writes of her delightful visit on Mallorca where she stayed in Palma and made several trips to Petra, the birth place of Father Junipero Serra. Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden, a native Californian, has been her hostess for many interesting historical tours of the island as well as to Petra for at least one historical occasion, the celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12, when Mrs. Bowden was also specially honored.

Mrs. Greene has this report as a translation of a story which appeared in a Spanish newspaper: "Homage to Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden the day before yesterday was celebrated in the town where the evangelist of Alta California was born. There was a celebration arranged by the enthusiastic group "Friends of Father Serra." A warm homage was paid to Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden, president of the Association of Friends of Mallorca and tireless worker to exalt the figure of the great missionary.

"Petra experienced several hours of great emotion on such an occasion. The town was gaily decorated to receive the guest of honor and a group of Americans now living on the island. Balconies and window were garnished with flags and brocades and corners of principal streets were decorated with plants in flowerpots. All the people of the town thus wished to demonstrate their love for Mrs. Bowden – so worthy of the affair that had been planned in her honor.

"About 10 o'clock many members of the American colony and worthy members of the group, including Mrs. Mary L. Greene of Monterey, California, and Friends of Father Serra, visited the Church of San Pedro, then to the plaza at the monument of Fray Junipero where a laurel wreath was laid by Mrs. Bowden.

"In the town hall a brilliant reception was held. The officials in eloquent words greeted the visitors and at the same time welcomed the homage to Mrs. Bowden, who replied to the words of greeting with a few brief words which were applauded.

"Mr. Stanley Kimmel gave a brief talk in which he emphasized the wisdom of Abraham Lincoln in

returning the California Missions to the Church, which was translated into Spanish by D. Miguel Ramis, director of the Museum.

"After the reception in the town hall the group went to the birthplace of Padre Serra where portrait of the evangelist and a beautiful bouquet of flowers which showed the colors of Spain and California interwoven were left.

"Then followed in the museum and center of study, a display of 24 oil paintings of the California missions founded by Padre Serra. They were the work of the painter Jose Ramis, together with the letters from the mayors of each locality. These were presented by the painter who spoke to show his great admiration for Padre Serra."

Mrs. Greene continued her letter:

"After enjoying the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Bowden, I was taken by them for a long drive around Mallorca, through the forest and around the beautiful shore line, which is so wonderful, cliffs of warmly tinted stone, emerald fingers of the sea indenting the shore line, as beautiful and so much more of than our Monterey coast. Mrs. Bowden is really the important person in Mallorca.

"I have taken several trips which have been breathtakingly beautiful and hope to see more before I leave next Saturday. Mallorca is different from anything else I have seen. Yesterday to Valdemosa where Chopin stayed, to Soller, a port, over the mountain, Ping (pronounced Pooch) Major, 3000 Feet high. The road only reaches 2000 feet but there are 62 hairpin curves in the crossing. We drove through the world's oldest olive orchards, some said to be 2000 years old. The mountains are terraced with cut stone terraces, one above the other (Moorish). Such quantities of stonework, they put the pyramids to shame. We visited palaces and lovely gardens. It is now spring in Mallorca.

"Mrs. Bowden took me again to Petra for the day yesterday. A wonderful opportunity to view in detail Padre Serra's town, his home, churches. A gorgeous day. Also took a trip for all day to Fomentor, another part of the Island of Mallorca. Today to the big Saturday street market. Will have so much to tell you when I reach Monterey. I fly to Barcelona tomorrow."