

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 28, 1960

Junipero Serra's Birthday

Today we will quote from the Mallorcan newspaper "Los Balcares," telling of the celebration of the anniversary of Father Junipero Serra's birthday. Petra is the scene of the birth of Father Junipero, the apostle of California Friends of the Cause and Friends of Mallorca presented a whole program dedicated to the exaltation of the great Mallorquin person. The 247th anniversary of his birth was celebrated and Serra united with California friends in his honor.

At 11 a.m. numerous persons had already arrived and other invited dignitaries gathered as the bells of the beautiful parish church called the faithful to Holy Mass. The celebrant was Father P. Noel Maholy, Vice Postulator of the Cause, who had arrived from Rome.

During a children's parade with each child carrying flowers, all those in attendance passed on to the monumental statue in the plaza named for Padre Serra. The monument was decked in flowers and in this setting Father Noel spoke and remarks were made by Mrs. Dina Bowden and the historian Sr. Moragues and other California representatives had made a beautiful red carnation floral offering and presented an appropriate message. California should be proud of the fact that there is also a life size bronze statue of Father Serra in the Hall of Fame in the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

It will also be remembered that Thomas Starr King is one of the only two Californians whose images appear in the Congressional Hall of Statuary in Washington, with Father Serra beside him.

After the ceremony a visit to the home of Father Serra was concluded by a reception. Mrs. Bowden gave an account of the new honor members of the society. Dr. Oliver Febrer handed the written documents to the following: Father Maholy, Vice Postulator; Father Owen da Silva, O.F.M.; Juan Bonet, editor of "Los Balcares"; a posthumous award to Don Jose Tous y Ferrer, director of "La Ultima Flora"; the president of the California Historical Society. John Rosenkrans; Mr. Chester R. MacPhee, Mrs. Mayo Hayes O'Donnell of Monterey and Don Gabriel Lloado Torres.

"As a splendid surprise ending," the reporter writes, "Mrs. Bowden made known that Sra. Magdalena

Rossello Rintorid, for the love of things concerning Father Junipero, was named an Illustrious Daughter of California and was handed a document signed by Mayor George Christopher. The sincerity and beauty of her joy was evident as the daughter of Petra accepted the honor. Her many human and spiritual merits make her a much loved person. She was applauded vigorously. Finally some tasty Spanish wines were served, thus bringing to an end a delightful day."