

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

August 21, 1962

The Serra Pilgrimage

One of Monterey's promised annual fiestas has passed into history and should be revived.

It was a four-day program ranging from colorful gaiety to solemn reverence - the annual Serra Pilgrimage and Fiesta.

The program began with a solemn high mass in the Royal Presidio Chapel (San Carlos Church).

At the 1928 fiesta, which opened on Aug. 22, there was a parade down Alvarado Street headed by a committee of judges with Louis Hill as the chairman. They paused at the intersection of Alvarado and Franklin to enter the judges' stand and the fiesta was officially opened.

In the pockets of these dignitaries was \$30 to be awarded to the best costumed participants of the fiesta: \$10 to go the seniorita in best attire, \$10 to the senior and \$10 to be divided.

The prizes went to Mrs. Etta Olmstead of Pacific Grove and to Joe Freitas as a pirate; two caballeros, A. Peters and J. A. Eustace, came in for the seconds, in the men's group and Miss Rose Enea, second, and Miss Elizabeth McAulay, third. Mrs. Martin McAulay won honorable mention.

A cast of 300 characters presented a pageant "Fray Junipero Serra", written by Perry Newberry and Msgr. Ramon Mestres, with Arthur Cyril directing. El Estero formed the beautiful and impressive background. Francis Joseph Heckson, Charles Kiernan and John H. Thompson took the parts of Padre Serra, Portola, and Don Jose de Galvez, inspector general of Mexico.

The ballpark became a Mojiganza, or the setting for a rodeo, and Sunday morning there was the trek through the forest and over the hill to Carmel Mission, led by Father Mestres. Stations of the Cross had been set up from the Presidio gate, down Pacific street and through the divide to the mission. It was a solemn and impressive sight to see the walking pilgrimage from the road across from the Mission, the destination. I know. I was there.

William Crabbe was the chairman of the parade. Among the judging group was Frank Sheriden, announcer; Tom Work, S. F. B. Morse, Rose Brucia and Billie (Young, Senor Luis Hill also headed the Treasure Hunt.

Now we have a bit of news from Spain - from Spindrift, Portals Nous, the home of Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden, on the Island of Mallorca. Mrs. Bowden was a San Francisco girl before her marriage and visited the Monterey Peninsula a few months ago after installing a Spanish exhibit at the Seattle Fair.

Mrs. Bowden writes, "We have had several interesting visitors to Petra since my return. One was Warren Howell, bookman of San Francisco, and Mr. and Mrs. George Whitney from Upland. The Whitney's had a special interest in the churches where Father Serra preached. They had only one day for this, but we saw six! Mr. Whitney is going to try to think of various ways to celebrate this 250th anniversary in honor of Father Serra.

"I had a number of pamphlets about Monterey and Carmel sent home to me by post and they have arrived. I do so enjoy looking at them and recalling my all too brief visit to these beloved places.

"Thank you again for your kindly interest in what we are doing at Petra."