

U.S. Consul Speaks Before Local Club

The Club Cruceros de La Paz has only been organized for approximately one year and already they are making front page news in local spanish language newspapers.

The latest article concerning this fast growing "Cruisers" club listed their recent speaker at their regular monthly meet-

ing. After completing routine club business, Rear Commodore, Jimi Murillo, turned the microphone over to Ms. Kathy Peterson. The honored guest speaker is U.S. Consul for the entire Baja peninsula. More precisely, Ms. Peterson is Chief of American Citizen Services at the American Consulate in

Tijuana, B.C.

An excellent speaker, she then proceeded to explain exactly what the duties and obligations of the U.S. Diplomatic Corp are in Mexico. Some very interesting facts and figures were offered as well. The club learned that Mexico had the largest amount of U.S. Consuls in the world with a total of nine Consuls and one Embassy. There are also more than 7,000 U.S. citizens living permanently either in Baja California or Baja California Sur who receive federal benefits of some sort and are able to receive their checks directly here in Mexico. The forum was open to questions of any nature and the members in attendance were anxious to have Ms. Peterson clear up several topics. Most were of a personal nature such as how to go about filling their income tax returns since some were outside the U.S. for the entire tax year. Others involved questions pertaining to Mexican and International law. The Consul was able to give a precise answer in every case. She was quick to explain that every person in Mexico is subject to Mexican law and U.S. laws are not valid. Only agreements between the two countries give the Consul any authority to help citizens with a problem. Part of her responsibilities include visiting any U.S. citizen who is serving time in prison. These visits must be made at least every three months and are to ensure that the prisoner is receiving "like" treatment as a Mexican pris-

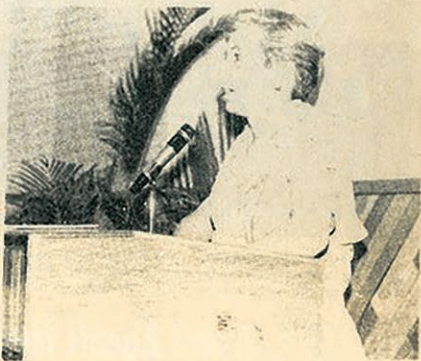
oner convicted of a similar crime and in some cases to help insure packages from friends and family are being received. A total of eleven U.S. citizens are currently serving sentences in the prison facility in La Paz. More than seventy may be found in different institutions along the peninsula. "The best advice I can give to you", the Consul told the group, "is to obey all the laws to the letter and not to be on my list of per-

sons I need to visit every three months."

Good advice from a lady who knows her business and has a natural talent for speaking and relating with her audience. The Mexican newspapers praised Ms. Peterson and her attitude, acknowledging her as an important part of the growing interrelationships between the two countries. She is welcome here anytime!



Members of the Club Cruceros de La Paz were addressed by the Chief of American Citizen Services, Ms. Kathy Peterson, at their January club meeting. An open forum gave members an opportunity to ask all types of questions which were expertly answered by the Consul.



U.S. Consul, Kathy Peterson, was an excellent speaker during the January meeting of the Club Cruceros de La Paz. Ms. Peterson, working out of the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana, makes her rounds in B.C.S. once every three months.

Subscribe To The Baja Californian