

## ALGARVE NEWS TAKES A LOOK AT FARO

the daughter of the late Bob Clark of Lagos.

Whilst Faro may not be a centre for tourism, it is certainly the base for the Tourist Board of the Algarve. This commission is headed most ably by Sr. Joaquim Manuel Cabrito Neto, who receives no salary for this post. In addition to this most important position, Sr. Neto runs his many businesses — a family owned food distributing company, an hotel, a newspaper, supermarkets, the agencies for Phillips Electric, Teacher's Whisky, and Prolar Foods. The presence of Sr. Neto and his influence on tourism in Portugal and Algarve in particular can be readily seen in his attitude towards support of the infra-structures of tourism already in existence and the obviously valuable foreign exchange that it can gain.

One of the newest companies to open here is Securitas Vigilancia e Alarmes SARL. This Swedish-based company, in Lisbon and Porto for 11 years, opened in Faro with an alarm service. During the first 15 months of their

operation they have installed some 140 alarms throughout the Algarve. Securitas do not believe in selling a product and then forgetting it. The local branch manager quite clearly states: "We only sell alarms when we can maintain them, thus protecting both the client's property and our own reputation." From alarms to guard services is a logical progression and, in April 1978, Securitas commenced a mobile "beat" service. During the night-time hours calls are made on commercial properties ensuring their security, that all lights and fires are out, and that all is in order — just like our old local "bobby" — or even better. To coordinate all these activities, Securitas plan to open a Control Room shortly, and subscribers of alarms can be linked by a cassette system to this operations room.

A local government centre, inland revenue local office, administration base, main car agencies, travel agencies and a security company — all in one town, Faro. Phew perhaps it's just as well tourism is quiet here.

## TEATRO LETHES

For thirty years the International Red Cross in Faro has operated out of a beautiful old building which, until it was closed by Prime Minister Pombal in the 18th century, had been a Jesuit seminary.

The historic seminary is in a remarkable state of preservation. Beautiful hand-painted wall tiles, centuries old, sparkle with all their original colour. Hundred-year-old floor tiles are still as sound as the day they were laid. And in the centre of this fine building, unknown even to most of the local population, there is a superb 18th century opera house still in almost mint condition.

After its closure by Pombal, the building had been bought by an Italian family, the Bivars. It was they who built the opera house, and by any standards it is a gem.

The auditorium is ringed by five galleries, with 15 boxes

in each gallery. It is all in good state of repair, with some of the original remaining. The ceiling is magnificent, having been painted by Jose Filipe Pombal, father of the famous painter Carlos Porfirio.

The theatre is said to have the best acoustics in Europe. We tested this, and found that a person on stage talking in his normal conversational voice could be heard, word for word, throughout the entire theatre. In its heyday this lovely house was played by the main touring opera companies prior to their engagements.

The upstairs rooms of the seminary have now been turned into spacious and well-equipped music and ballet school for children.

The opera house, now Teatro Lethes, is used for various public functions and fund raising events.

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OPENING  
SOON

# 'SUSAN'

Restaurant