

Duke of Albuquerque To Visit City

By Joshua Quittner

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The Duke of Albuquerque is returning next month to fire cannons, play the ponies, watch the balloons and review the troops in the town that dropped the "r" from his family name.

Don Beltran Osorio Diez de Rivera Martos y Figueroa, the eighteenth Duke of Albuquerque — and his wife — will be flying from his family home in Madrid, Spain, on Oct. 4 and staying through the 10th, said John Parker of the mayor's office.

"He and Mayor Kinney will be firing the cannons for the start of the first Duke City Marathon," Parker said. "I don't know where they got the cannons."

Marge Navarro, one of the coordinators of the benefit marathon and the duke's return, does.

"The cannons come from the Albuquerque Junior ROTC," she said. "There will be one big one and one little one. I don't know how big the big one is — it has a very military kind

of size."

Mrs. Navarro, who owns a sporting-goods store, said between 1,000 and 1,500 runners will participate in the 26.2-mile race Oct. 7. Two shorter races will also be held, she said.

"The beneficiary of all this is the New Mexico Special Olympics," Mrs. Navarro said, adding that that organization will get what cash isn't used for prizes — a trip to Hawaii and Nambeware for the winners — or promotions. People who like to run long distances can register for the race at any Moncor Bank and most sporting goods stores in Albuquerque, she said.

Mrs. Navarro said it will cost about \$3,000 to bring the duke and duchess here — a cost that the city is sharing, she said.

She said the duke has expressed interest in the State Fair racing. He will be attending the track on Oct. 5 and one race will be named in his honor. The next day, the duke will again be an honored guest, first at the Balloon Fiesta, then at Kirtland Air Force Base.

The next day is the marathon.

The duke will conclude his visit with a trip

to Taos where he will be wine and dined by artist R.C. Gorman.

"This is a personal kind of thing that R.C. is doing for the duke," explained Mrs. Navarro. "He's invited about 100 of his friends."

Albuquerque was named, in 1706, for the duke's ancestor, Don Francisco Fernandez de la Cueva Enriquez, the 10th duke of Albuquerque.

The current duke has visited the city twice, most recently in June 1983 when he traveled from Spain for the opening of "Four Centuries of Albuquerque," an exhibition at the Albuquerque Museum.

In 1956, the duke visited Albuquerque to help celebrate the 250th anniversary of the city's founding. During that visit, he presented the city with a *reposterio*, a 12-foot-square tapestry, adorned with silver and gold threads and depicting the crest of the House of Albuquerque.

The tapestry is now part of the Albuquerque history exhibition at the Albuquerque Museum.