

The History of the Cave

In 1907, In the port of Santa Cruz, the capital of Tenerife and a correspondingly small port, a ship had been loaded with bananas in crates, even on its deck, up to the top of the bridge.

The ship belonged to our predecessor liner business, which had started in 1904 with the carriage of bananas, from the Canary Islands to London.

The manager of the business in the Canaries, Ole R. Thoresen and his number one Canario, Alvaro Rodriguez Lopez, one of the dock foremen, Manuel Díaz and some others, went to a bar in Plaza de España, well pleased with themselves for having got the ship away with such a profitable cargo.

During this proud moment, Manuel Diaz told the others that he knew there was water coming out of a mountain, high up on the southern side of La Gomera. This was quite special since all of the banana productions of the Islands were on the north side, where there was a sufficient supply of water.

So there and then, they decided to take one of the Faluas (a schooner type of boat), used for transporting bananas from the north sides of the different islands, due to lack of roads, to Santa Cruz and Las Palmas.

So off they went arriving on the beach, where Club Laurel stands today. No one lived there then for one exception, a woman living in the very cave, on the side of the rock wall. She was kind enough to kill a chicken and prepare a meal for them. The party spent the night in what was then common for animals, a stone circle with palm leaves as a roof to protect them against the dew.

The next morning, they set off for the mountains, and the spring they found, high up in the Benchijigua valley, still runs. This event was the start of our activities in La Gomera.

Ole R. Thoresen told me this story approximately 50 years ago. We were in fact business partners, running one of our liner businesses together. He, at the end of his career and I, at the start of mine.

From Fred. Olsen S.A we wanted to honour the beginnings of our company turning the place where it all began in La Gomera into a nice cave where to enjoy an unforgettable night under the candle lights.



Ole R. Thoresen

Fred. Olsen -