

Wedding on Skorpios a Boon to Neighboring Isle

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LEUKAS, Greece, Oct. 20—The people of the ruggedly beautiful but impoverished island of Leukas, a neighbor to Skorpios, the private island of Aristotle S. Onassis, are fervently hopeful that world publicity will pique the interest of tourists and stimulate the island's sleepy economy.

Although Leukas is graced with spectacular mountain scenery, long shady beaches and generous sunshine, few foreigners visit the island in the Ionian Sea, off western Greece.

The 30,000 inhabitants exist mainly by raising olives and wine grapes or by small-scale commercial fishing. Young men tend to overcome the lack of economic opportunity by going to sea.

Having one of the world's wealthiest men as a neighbor has yielded little direct benefit to the people of Leukas until now, apart from a handful of servant jobs on Skorpios.

The clamor of reporters and the vigil kept by photographers

with large telephoto lenses may have vexed the Kennedy-Onassis wedding party, but the newsmen were ardently welcomed by the officials of citizens of Leukas.

"Our island is poor and unknown to the world, but it could be a tourist paradise if businessmen would come here and build hotels," a lawyer from the town of Leukas, which sits at the northern end of the island, said in a cafe in the village of Nidri, opposite Skorpios.

The simple, whitewashed stone houses of Nidri contrast with Skorpios's painted villas, which sit among dense groves of trees and extensive flower beds, sustained at great cost because fresh water has to be transported to the island.

After Mr. Onassis bought Skorpios in 1932, Leukas islanders say, he sought to tap a fresh-water source in Nidri, a mile and two-thirds away, but was rebuffed by the authorities who were concerned that the villagers' supply would be threatened.

Today, while peasants of



overhead with guests of Mr. Onassis.

Mr. Onassis has rarely assisted the development of Nidri, which has only a single battery-powered telephone for the 300 inhabitants. But the villagers foresee better times as a result of the publicity resulting from the invasion by several dozen journalists from many countries.

The journalists have been given red-carpet treatment by the islanders. Last night Nidri organized a festive outdoor banquet for them with roast beef, lamb liver, wine and folk dancing by girls in local costume.

The officials of Leukas urged cafes and restaurants to serve local wines free to the visitors.

The journalists brought an economic boomlet to Nidri as they rented rooms in homes, chartered fishing boats to patrol near Skorpios and crowded the few village cafes day and night.

After the wedding this afternoon, most of the visitors departed as swiftly as they had come, and a distressful tranquility returned to the village.

Leukas led donkeys along primitive dirt roads, a private helicopter from Skorpios passed

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