**January, 2022**

**I won a book called “Captain from Castile” in the Egg and Spoon race at the V.E. party. It was a thin drab looking book and so boring. Then at the beginning of December we watched a film called “Captain from Castile”(1957). It was the story of a young caballero, Pedro De Vargas, who in Spain 1518 fled the Inquisition with his friend Juan Garcia and adoring servant girl Catana. They joined Cortez on his first expedition to Mexico. The film lasted three hours and at last that boring little book became a wonderful story.**

**As you have seen from my articles, I love history, not only the last century but far back in time. When my grandchildren have learned about the second world war, this to me is remembered, which they find quite amusing as I produced my Identity Card and a Telegram from my brother to our mother on her birthday in 1941.**

**“What on earth is a Telegram?” someone asked.**

**I told them there were no ‘phones except kiosks in the street, no internet, only two stations on the T.V. and only the doctor or rich people had cars. I said I wouldn’t keep talking about the past but one of my grandsons loves to hear my stories and encourages me.**

**In December 1697 St. Paul’s Cathedral opened 31 years after the original was destroyed by the Great Fire of London. We realise things never change when we hear how it was financed - by a tax on coal. I have no idea of the cost but you can be sure that when it was finished the tax still remained. All those years ago and people had to worry about fuel costs.**

**Another year over, another begun and after horrible 2021, let us hope we can look forward to 2022 with hope.**

**A little known poet, Minnie Louise Haskin wrote:**

**And I said to the man who stood at the gate: “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied, “Go into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.” So I went forth and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night and He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.”**

**Marie Cove.**