



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

November 1, 1966

Mr. Jerry Mac Mullen
3659 Van Dyke Avenue
San Diego, California 92105

Dear Mr. Mac Mullen:

In reply to your inquiry concerning Professor Robert E. C. Stearns we have found the following information.

Mr. Stearns was appointed to the staff of the U.S. National Museum in 1884 by John Wesley Powell, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey and later was made Assistant Curator of Molluscs. He retired from the Geological Survey in 1892 because of ill health and moved to California. He was not, apparently, a trained geologist but worked with and collected modern and some fossil molluscs.

The following reference by a daughter of R.E.C. Stearns may be available in one of the San Diego libraries enumerated on page 24 of the enclosed list of U.S. Geological Survey geologic and water-supply reports and maps pertaining to California. If not, perhaps they could borrow a copy on interlibrary loan.

Stearns, Mary R., 1911, Bibliography of the scientific writings of R.E.C. Stearns; with a biographical sketch, by W. H. Doll: Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. v. 56, no. 18.

It would be interesting to know the details of the incident that prompted the Jan. 1, 1888 account in the San Diego Union. There was no doubt, a distortion of the facts. Reliable geologic descriptions of the San Diego area should be available in the libraries mentioned above.

Sincerely yours,

Helen L. Nace

(Mrs.) Helen L. Nace
Geologist
Geologic Inquiries Group

Enclosure

