

Gerald MacMullen Dies At 83; Writer-Historian

San Diego
Union
Feb. 1981

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Gerald F. "Jerry" MacMullen, a longtime newspaperman, author, historian and artist, died Sunday in his Coronado home at the age of 83.

The San Francisco native, a UC Berkeley graduate, came to San Diego in 1921 and joined the Evening Tribune's editorial staff. He transferred to The San Diego Union in 1928 and wrote for this newspaper until the outbreak of World War II.

He served four years with the U.S. Navy, assigned to the 11th Naval District here and to the Western Sea Frontier in San Francisco and San Pedro. He returned here to newspaper work in December of 1945 to cover the waterfront for the Tribune-Sun.

Mr. MacMullen, who held the rank of commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, was elected president of the Maritime Research Society here in 1948, the year he brought out his first book, "Paddle Wheel Days in California." It was illustrated with his own pen and ink drawings.

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GERALD MACMULLEN
... longtime S.D. journalist

G.F. MacMullen, Writer-Artist, Dies

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Later he co-authored "Ships of the Redwood Coast" with Jack McNairn, again using his own drawings, as he did with another book, "Star of India: Log of an Iron Ship." Mr. MacMullen had been active in the old sailing ship's restoration.

In 1956, he was named director of the Serra Historical Museum in Presidio Park, resigning the position 10 years later. He was president of the Conference of California Historical Societies in 1962-63, was president of the San Diego Maritime Museum Association and wrote a weekly column for The Union in the early 1960s.

His historical episodes appeared from time to time in the Sunday section more recently. In recent years, in spite of illness, he was a frequent contributor of letters to the editor.

His interest in writing could be traced to his father, James MacMullen, a former editor of both The Union and Evening Tribune. Other interests included painting in water colors and serving as an authority on West Coast port developments.

Mr. MacMullen is survived by his wife, Roberta. Funeral arrangements are pending at Greenwood Mortuary.

