

the professional. Too often, in the last few years, we have been presented with so-called histories of the American west that have been founded on little or no scholarly effort and research, which at best can be described as careless. In his usual unassuming way, Jerry MacMullen states in his preface that his book is not a history of San Diego Bay in the terms of change-of-command ceremonies or civic banquets, that it has nothing to do with the social significance of the tuna industry, etc. "Rather", he says, "it will plug up some of the holes left by those who in bygone years felt that nothing of interest occurred from the arrival of the sea-born elements of Don Gaspar de Portola's expedition in 1769 until the Navy began to fly the cloth and bamboo airplanes on North Island".

Well, Jerry has certainly filled the gap, and filled it beautifully. I don't know whether or not I am more struck by his marvelous ability to say much in few words and entertainingly at that, or the appreciation for the tremendous amount of research that went into collecting of the well over 200 illustrations, mostly photographs that appear in this book. The entire history of San Diego, whether Jerry denies it or not, that is the real history, is in the photographs he has presented so effectively. The small, interspersed, but cleverly and well written remarks with which he describes each photograph enhances the reader's interest, and when taken as a whole, do create a sum total picture of the large segment of the history of San Diego.

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