

John Mladinich; captained 3,000 ships

John B. Mladinich used to tell friends that being a ship's captain was in his blood: "I am the son of a master, who was the son of a master, who was the son of a master, for a thousand years."

"The sea was his life," said Mary Brooks, a family friend for 30 years.

Mr. Mladinich — known variously as "Captain John" and "Johnny the Sheik" — died at age 92 Friday in a convalescent home.

Born in Austria, he joined his father at sea at age 8 on a two-masted schooner. He became a schooner master at age 16. During

his career, he was the master of about 3,000 ships.

In 1919 he came to the United States and became a citizen 20 years later. He spent several years in San Francisco, where his clothing earned him the nickname "Sheik."

He came to San Diego in the 1920s and settled into a career of delivering new ships, tugs, ferries and tuna boats to their owners all along the West Coast. He became a fixture along the waterfront here.

During World War II, he sailed on various merchant ships. After

the war, he was port captain for the National Steel & Shipbuilding Co. and for Campbell Industries.

Brooks said Mr. Mladinich taught thousands of people navigation skills over the years. "He had an uncanny photographic memory," she said. "He could go into a port one time and then sit down and draw the chart for that port."

A lifelong bachelor, he has no survivors.

A funeral service is scheduled at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Beardsley-Mitchell Funeral Home in Ocean Beach. Cremation is planned.

MONSIGNOR WILLIAM D. SPAIN

Founder of St. Mark's parish

Monsignor William D. Spain, former pastor of St. James parish in Solana Beach and a 30-year member of the local Roman Catholic community, died last Tuesday in Hawaii of complications from surgery.

The Honolulu resident was 64.

Born in San Bernardino, Monsignor Spain graduated from Loyola University in Los Angeles in 1951. He attended theological college at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and was ordained a priest at St. Joseph Cathedral in San Diego in May 1956.

Seven years later he founded St. Mark's parish in San Marcos. He became pastor at St. James in 1969, and stayed there until 1984.

In 1970, he was invested as monsignor, and three years later also was named a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher, an honorary Roman Catholic order.

Monsignor Spain also had a long affiliation with the University of San Diego. He was the school's first vice president and was a member of its board of trustees from 1973 until 1984.

He moved to Hawaii in 1985 after a public scandal about allegations that he became addicted to cocaine during a six-year homosexual affair with a young man. He spent three months in a treatment center and was reassigned to a post in Coronado before leaving the mainland.

In Hawaii, he was an assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Church.

Survivors include a brother, James E. of Newport Beach; two nephews; a niece; two aunts; and an uncle.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated in San Diego at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Founders Chapel at the University of San Diego.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at Holy Trinity Church in Honolulu tomorrow night, with burial Thursday morning at Hawaiian Memorial Cemetery.

Dwight Lobb

Store owner

Dwight M. Lobb, former owner of pet and hobby stores in San Diego, died Thursday from complications during surgery. He was 47.

A San Diego native, Mr. Lobb graduated from Point Loma High School in 1964. Two years later, he began a 19-year career with the Food Basket supermarket chain. He worked at various stores, but was affiliated mostly with the Point Loma branch.

In 1985, he and his wife, the former Suzanne Fogwill, became owners and operators of three Pet-mart stores in the area. They sold the stores in 1989.

That same year, they opened Zanights Hobbyworld in the Clairemont Square Shopping Center, which they sold last year.

Mr. Lobb was a member of the Retail Clerk's Union, Local 1222, and a former board member of the Clairemont Square Merchant's Association.

Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Suzanne; a daughter, Cathy M. Fabregas; a son, Danny K.; and a brother, Don W., all of San Diego.

Sellers memorial tomorrow

Memorial services for Margaret L. Sellers, former head of the Postal Service branch in San Diego, will be tomorrow at 11 a.m. in the Garden Chapel at Greenwood Mortuary. Ms. Sellers, 63, died Friday from cancer.

CORRECTION

An obituary Sunday for J. Howard Asper Sr. was incorrect in saying that he introduced a large deep-salmon rose *camellia japonica* variety called Drama Girl in 1950. E.W. Miller introduced Drama Girl; Mr. Asper introduced another variety, Dream Girl, in 1965.

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* regrets the error.

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It is the policy of the Union-Tribune to correct all errors. To discuss accuracy or fairness in the news, please write Gina Lubrano, readers representative, Box 191, San Diego, CA 92112-4106, or telephone 293-1525.