

Former editor dies as article rolls from press

The Daily News' "Man in the Corner" has written his last column.

At the age of 70, Mr John Haydon Fullarton, a former editor of this newspaper, died suddenly at the Taranaki Base Hospital, New Plymouth, early yesterday morning — at the very time his last article was rolling from the press of Taranaki Newspapers Ltd.

His death closes a notable career in journalism and ends a long association with a number of sporting activities.

Mr Fullarton's career in journalism began in England where he specialised in cricket reporting, and he later joined the Daily News as a sub-editor. He held the posts of leader writer, associate editor (1952) and editor (1962), retiring in 1973.

Since then he contributed the twice-weekly "Man in the Corner" column and also the Saturday morning Viewpoint column, both of which features had a wide following.

Mr Fullarton, who was born in Dunedin and educated at Napier Boys' High School and Canterbury University, trained as a teacher, and taught in New Zealand and later in England and Europe.

In 1936 in England he married Miss Mollie Butt. In 1939, while still in England, he joined the New Zealand Army and for the next six years served with the artillery in England and the Middle East, including a period in the Western Desert, rising to the rank of captain.

He was the author of two novels about New Zealanders at war.

He joined the Daily News in 1946, and later travelled widely on behalf of the newspaper to Asia, Africa and Europe, acquiring a reputation for his interpretation of foreign affairs.

Mr Fullarton had a number of other interests. He was president of the New Plymouth Rotary Club in 1961, and played an important role in the establishment of the Good Neighbour Scheme for assisting undeveloped countries in South-east Asia. He was a past president of the New Zealand Contract Bridge Association, and was chairman of the Taranaki committee of the Educational Development Conference in 1973-74.

But he also had an intense and abiding interest in sport, with cricket and rugby as his special favourites.

His love of sport was developed as a pupil at Napier Boys' High School and he was a contemporary of the Hawke's Bay's great players of the mid-1920s. George Nepia and Jimmy Mill were two of his favourite players.

He represented Hawke's Bay at both cricket and rugby, and later played both sports in Taranaki. He captained the now defunct Western Park senior cricket team.

In later years he was an enthusiastic bowler, winning titles at the New Plymouth Bowling Club and holding various administrative positions including that of president.

He was secretary of the Taranaki Cricket Association for two years from 1975.

Mr Fullarton had an encyclopaedic memory for sporting details, particularly scores and scorers in cricket and rugby.

Mr and Mrs Fullarton were to have left on a two-month trip to Britain and the Continent early in July.

He leaves his wife, a daughter (Mrs R. Scalf, Papakura) and a son, Mr Michael Fullarton, who is at present in Europe.

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