

Winifred Mallon

(- 4 Apr 1954)

Mallon. On Sunday, April 4, 1954, at her residence the Woodward Apts., 2311 Conn. Ave., n.w., Winifred Mallon, beloved aunt of Donald P. Steward of San Mateo, Calif. Services will be held in the chapel of the Congressional Cemetery, 1801 E st. s.e., on Tuesday, April 6, at 11 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery. Services by Zirkle Funeral Home.



MISS WINIFRED MALLON.

The Evening Star, April 5, 1954, p. A12

Miss Mallon, Writer and Retired Member of Times Bureau

Miss Winifred Mallon, 74, one of the best known newspaper women here for almost half a century, died yesterday at her home, 2311 Connecticut avenue n.w., of a heart ailment.

She retired in 1949, after 20 years at the New York Times bureau here.

Before that she had spent 20 years on the Washington staff of the Chicago Tribune.

A free lance writer, too, she had written fiction stores for magazines and articles on national affairs.

Covered Famous Controversy

Miss Mallon had covered activities of wives of presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She had an exclusive on Alice Roosevelt's engagement to House Speaker Nicholas Longworth and covered the Gann-Longworth controversy in the Hoover administration. Mrs. Dolly Gann was a sister of the late Vice President Curtis and his official hostess. The controversy arose over whether Mrs. Gann should be accorded the social status of a wife of the Vice President of the United States.

Miss Mallon began her writing career in the cable room of the State Department. In 1902 she turned to free lance journalism and in 1905 became a member of the Chicago Tribune staff. One of her specialties of the Tribune was reporting the suffrage campaign and the enactment of the 19th Amendment. This brought her into close association with Mrs. O.H.P. Belmont, founder of the National Woman's party and donor of its Capitol Hill headquarters.

Mrs. Belmont later commissioned Miss Mallon to come to her home in Paris and help her with her memoirs. On her return to this country, Miss Mallon joined the New York Times staff. She reported national political conventions, hearings on Capital Hill and social Washington.

Helped Found Club

She was one of the organizers and former secretary and president of the Women's National Press Club. She was also a member of the American Press Society, serving on its Board of Governors in 1937, and a member of Theta Sigma Phi.

Miss Mallon was a native of North Evans, N.Y. She was educated at Eastern High School here and at Columbian, now George Washington University.

Survivors are a nephew, Donald Stewart, San Mateo, Calif., and two cousins, Herbert and Howard Black of New York.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow at the chapel of Congressional Cemetery, 1801 E street S.E. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

From Interview with Alice Paul

Newspapers as Sources for the Suffrage and Equal Rights Stories

Fry

Tell me about the beginnings of the Women's Press Club. Do you mean it grew out of this little group of women?

Paul

Well, they just got the newspaperwomen together, the few that there were, and formed a club while they were there, toward the end of the seven years that we worked there. And that club of course developed and grew to be quite a big power, I think, in our nation. The first woman (you might add to this story) apart from us -- she was our first member, in fact, in Washington was -- I can't think of her name. She was the first woman ever to be allowed to sign her name to reports going out from the big bureaus -- Her name was Winifred Mallon. She lived up on Capitol Hill. The first member we ever had in Washington was Winifred Mallon.

Fry

And she was the first woman to have a by-line in the press in the wire services?

Paul

One of the first. When we got to know her she was on the Chicago Tribune and this was before we met Florence Boeckel and started to have our own little press department. We had nothing but a little basement room, 1420 F Street, one room, 1420 F Street, one room, nothing else. You had to go down the steps to go in.

Just across the street was the Chicago Tribune office. And somehow or other we got to know Winifred Mallon, who was there. She lived up on Capitol Hill with her mother and other members of her family. She would work all day I guess and all evening getting the material off to the Chicago Tribune, which was her livelihood. Then she would start in and write the little press bulletins for us before we ever had any press department. She would write up whatever happened and give it to us so we could give it out the next day. We did have a typist, that much. And we had a volunteer person who was taking care of the press by interviewing the people who came in. So it was a wonderful thing she did for us. And also putting it in her own things that she sent out [to the Tribune].

Later on, I think she was one of the presidents of the Women's Press Club after it got started. She remained until her death one of our strongest members. She had very little money, so what she did was whenever anybody came to Washington to help and we couldn't pay for their going to hotels, and so on (and they often couldn't pay for themselves), she would take them one by one by one, as they came up, to her home. I don't know how many people who came down to help in those early days stayed as guests at the home of Winifred Mallon where her mother and the other people who lived there were very hospitable and took care of them.

Anyway, later she became the president of the Women's Press Club.

So that was really the way we started our campaign, was through this Winifred Mallon, our press work. So, in any story, I'd like to have her built up. Then she left the Chicago Tribune. (And I'm not sure whether she ever signed her name to the Chicago Tribune articles.) She grew in stature in the press world so that she became in a much higher capacity on the staff of the New York Tribune. She was there

up until the time of her death. And of course, Mrs. Ogden Reid was one of our great supporters, as you know, one of the owners of the New York Tribune.

After she went over to the New York Tribune, we had a very direct line into the Tribune. We could get a great, great, great deal of publicity there. First of all Mrs. Reid was herself for us, very strongly, (I think she was on our national advisory board, but I'd have to look that up. I'm not perfectly sure.) And the publicity that Winifred Mallon was able to get -- she had a free hand and could write up an enormous amount for us in the New York Tribune.

So we had all this going when Florence Boeckel came along and then got it all put in a very systematic and orderly way down in one big room that we gave for the press [Laughing]. Now that's the end of that one?