

Dec. 26, 1957

REAR ADMIRAL MACMILLAN sat in the warmth and comfort of his home, where he and Mrs. MacMillan are spending the holidays, and watched the hour-long television program of his journey over the North Pole with newscaster Lowell Thomas and party. The show, "High Adventure with Lowell Thomas, was televised over Channel 7 in Boston and showed the trip taken last September — over the top of the world, the toast to explorers who have died in their attempts to reach the Pole by land, the wreath dropped in honor of the dead, and the trip by plane to the air base at Thule, Greenland. Admiral MacMillan accompanied Commodore Peary on his trip in 1900 when he discovered the North Pole, and is the last surviving member of the expedition.

the most rugged wooden ships ever built.

Her planking is tough Maine oak, three inches thick. Around the waterline, to resist the ice, there is a five-foot sheathing of Australian ironwood. Twenty tons of concrete in the hull help to pound a way through the ice.

On the Bowdoin's many voyages north MacMillan almost never shipped a professional sailor.

College boys, some of whom had never been under sail before, became able-bodied seamen under Captain Mac.

The Bowdoin usually sailed on the echoes of a gala farewell from Wiscasset or, in later years, Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

After a couple of days shake-down cruising along the Maine coast Skipper MacMillan would head towards Nova Scotia and the open sea.

MacMillan's arctic explorations began a half century ago. He was one of four assistants to Robert E. Peary on the successful North Pole expedition of 1909.

MacMillan, who had been teaching school since his graduation

from Bowdoin in 1898, fell in love with the Arctic during the Peary expedition.

He sailed north nearly every year. One voyage that started in 1913 lasted until 1917. He didn't know about the world war until three years after it started. That expedition was to discover Peary's mysterious "Crocker Land." MacMillan proved it didn't exist but made many new discoveries.

MacMillan's knowledge of the poorly-charted Labrador and Greenland coasts was legendary. Fishing skippers never hesitated to follow the Bowdoin through pea-soup fog dodging icebergs and shoals to reach a safe harbor.

During the last war Bowdoin proudly wore "U.S.S." before her name. Skipper and ship joined to help the Navy chart the nation's vital northern frontier.

MacMillan is happy that Bowdoin has found a snug anchorage at Mystic. He recalls sadly that

Peary's ship, the Roosevelt, is a rotting hulk alongside the Panama Canal.

"Bowdoin has sailed 300,000 miles, that's a dozen times around the world," says Macmillan.

"Now she can take life easy and let the world come to see her."

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Arctic Schooner to Be Retired

By DON GUY

FALMOUTH (AP) — The veteran arctic schooner Bowdoin makes her first voyage south this summer.

Yes, that's right, south.

South to a snug berth in history.

Rear Adm. Donald B. MacMillan, USN (Ret.) 85 years young and as straight as the Bowdoin's mainmast, will be at the helm once again June 27.

"Captain Mac" will sail the rugged schooner to Mystic Seaport in Connecticut, the last port of call of many famous ships.

She is being enshrined at the Mystic Marine Museum as a joint venture of the MacMillans, numerous Bowdoin College alumni and friends of the ship from coast to coast.

In Distinguished Company

The 80-foot Bowdoin will tie up alongside ships that have made heroic maritime history. Off her bow will be the Charles W. Morgan, last of the New Bedford whalers. Astern will be the lofty square-rigged training ship Joseph Conrad.

Admiral MacMillan, a native of Provincetown, still lives at the tip of Cape Cod, the sea at his front door. He drives over here every few days to make sure the Bowdoin is being fitted out taut and true for her last voyage at Macdougall's Boat Yard.

MacMillan skippered the Bowdoin on 25 voyages into the northern ice. His wife Miriam, who married the Arctic when she married MacMillan, made the last

nine voyages north. She simply refused to stay ashore. "Lady Mac," as the Eskimos called her, grew to love the north as much as her husband. She will take her trick at the wheel on that last sad, yet happy, voyage to Mystic.

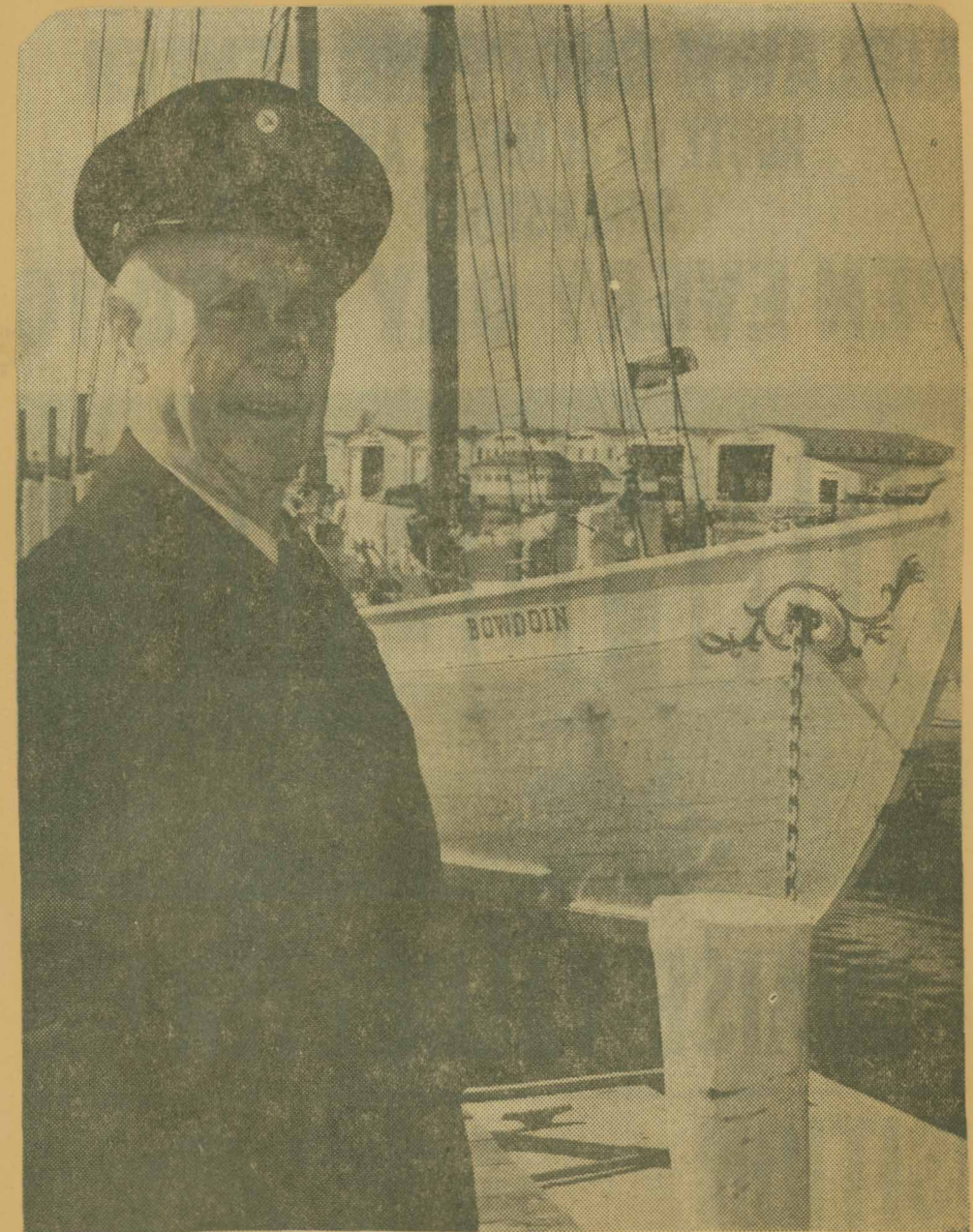
Built in 1921

The Bowdoin was built in 1921 by George I. Hodgdon at East Boothbay, Maine. She is one of



ARCTIC CAREER IS OVER—The 88-foot schooner Bowdoin, commanded by Rear-Admiral Donald B. MacMillan of Provincetown on nearly 40 years of cruises into the Arctic, is shown completely surrounded by ice and snow in Refuge Harbor, Northern Greenland, in photo taken

April 6, 1924. Such scenes won't be repeated. This Summer she will be enshrined at Mystic, Conn. Lower photo shows Admiral MacMillan aboard the schooner at Falmouth. MacMillan, 85, will be at the helm of the Bowdoin on the voyage from Falmouth to Mystic June 27.



THE "BOWDOIN" IS READIED AT FALMOUTH BERTH Rear Admiral Donald B. MacMillan, 85, veteran of 25 voyages north.