

BEAUMONT OF DISCOVERY

King of the Islanders Dead

Capt. Ernest Godfrey Beaumont, widely known as the King of the Islanders, died at 6.30 p.m. Tuesday in Royal Jubilee Hospital.

He was 91.

A kindly man, he was a promoter of the Gulf Islands by vocation and a captain by popular acclaim.

He was the undisputed king of Discovery Island where he lived for nearly half a century. He owned all but the portion of the island set aside as an Indian reserve.

Born in London, the youngest son of Lt.-Col. G. Went-



CAPT. BEAUMONT

worth Beaumont and educated at Emmanuel College Cambridge, he was descended from royalty.

He was a philanthropist who donated 513 acres of waterfront land on Bedwell Harbor, South Pender Island, to the provincial government for a marine park.

He also donated for use as a park 330 acres of land on Fraser Lake, east of Prince George.

But Capt. Beaumont was best known in Victoria for his role as a host over the years to thousands of boys and girls

from B.-C. youth and church organizations.

The boys started going to Discovery Island when he bought the island in 1918. Apart from "personal visitors," they included University School boys, Boy Scouts and Cubs, Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, Army Cadets and Christ Church Cathedral Choir boys.

He believed the blue waters of the Pacific, the sandy claim-filled beaches and the trees, hills and verdant meadows provided a perfect

environment for developing young people.

He used to say "every boy is born good and only needs the right kind of young life to remain good."

So he erected a clubhouse, a bunkhouse, bought canoes and rowboats — all to help make happy boyhoods for city youths.

LEG INJURY

Capt. Beaumont's own boyhood was marred by an accident a few days before his 13th birthday. A football injury nearly cost him his leg. After a series of operations, the leg was saved although it remained rigid to his death.

The leg injury ruled out a career in the Royal Navy.

The captain's family history is sprinkled with titles, but the ancestor he liked best was his great-grandmother.

She was the natural daughter of Lady Almeria Carpenter and King George III's brother, William Henry, Duke of Gloucester.

"Which, of course, was quite respectable in those days," he used to say with a chuckle.

His wife, the former Constance Ida Hay Currie, was a willing partner on his island until her death in 1952.

He owned many boats. His first vessel was a 50-foot vessel "Discovery," made in Hong Kong and later wrecked in the Strait of Georgia in 1950.

KEPT FIT

He believed in keeping fit. In his late '80's he used to row around Discovery or Chatham Island.

Many young fishermen will remember Capt. Beaumont as the man who rescued them from the choppy waters off Ten-Mile Point. With his powerful telescope, he was always watching for boatmen in distress.

In 1964 when someone stole his telescope, he offered a reward to the thief if he would return it.

At that time, he said, he'd rather do that than neglect young boys who fished around his island.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

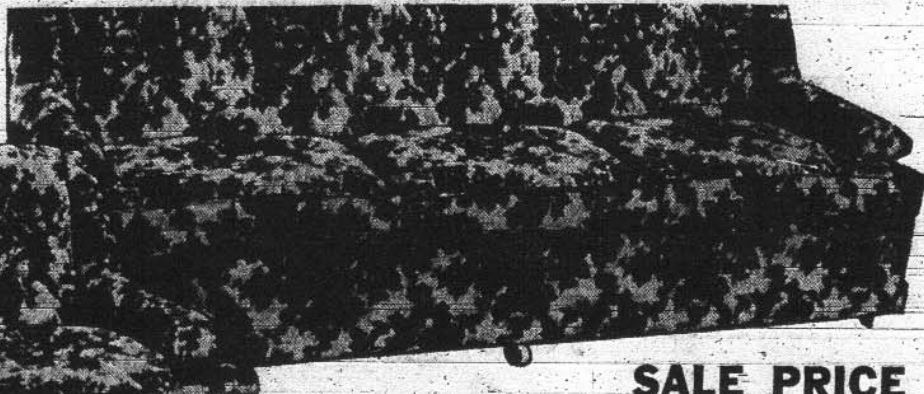
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