

Leisure Worlder

OF THE MONTH

ARTHUR BEAUMONT

One of our Nation's distinguished artists, Arthur Beaumont is known widely as "Artist Laureate of the United States Navy." Since 1932, after his retirement as an Officer of the U.S. Naval Reserve, he has specialized in painting Navy ships, personnel and activities.

In an outstanding career spanning more than 60 years, Mr. Beaumont has created hundreds, perhaps thousands of great works of art. Many hang in prestigious galleries, the U.S. Naval Academy, the White House, National Gallery in Washington, D.C., many U.S. Embassies, on naval vessels, museums, colleges, schools, city halls, and Naval officers clubs. They are also in many private collections including the Roosevelt Memorial at Hyde Park and Queen Fredericka's of Greece.

Though known principally for his vivid paintings of U.S. naval vessels in which he captures action, motion and the feel of the sea, Mr. Beaumont is equally great as a portraitist. He has created oil portraits of many well-known figures including Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, several other naval officers, motion picture stars, church leaders and others.

Mr. Beaumont continues to work five days a week in his Leisure World manor and he has a backlog of commissions so long that he doesn't bother to count their number. In addition, he is keenly interested in all that goes on in Leisure World and occasionally gives lectures before various community groups. Mr. Beaumont is an excellent example of the many Leisure Worlders who demonstrate that the leisure years can be productive and exciting.

In doing his work, Mr. Beaumont has led a zestful life of high adventure. He has:

- sailed all over the world aboard the greatest of U.S. naval ships,
- sketched and painted scenes of great naval battles in World War II, Korea and Viet Nam,
- traveled to both the North and South Poles, the only artist in history to do so,
- lived under the ice at the Pole, painting in weather as cold as 30° below zero, using alcohol in his paint to keep it from freezing,
- sailed completely through the famous Northwest Passage in the Arctic,
- explored the dreaded Bellingshausen Sea and landings in the Antarctic,
- painted the Seventh Fleet in the Orient,
- painted with the Sixth Fleet in European waters,
- painted the Atomic blasts at Bikini and the post-explosion wreckage.

The foregoing is a brief summary of a long, exciting and fruitful career. If ever the Beaumont biography is written it could fill volumes with high adventure.