THE SANTA BARBARA

Sea Threatens to Destroy Knapp Home

SANDYLAND FOUNDER TAKES DISASTER CALMLY

George Owen Knapp (left), one of the founders of the exclusive Sandyland resort, contemplates philosophically damage done to his own beach front home by unusually high ocean tides. The Knapp home, pictured above, was a third undermined yesterday, with workmen making strenuous efforts to prevent its collapse into the sea.

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Philanthropist Undisturbed By Sea's Attack Upon Home

Watching the unrelenting waves cutting away the foundation, threatening to topple his palatial Sandyland beach home into the angry sea, George Owen Knapp stood by directing rescue and salvage work and commenting philosophically on the damage.

"It is a shame to see the ocean doing so much damage," one of his friends commented.

"It could be worse," answered the 84-year-old philanthropist. "The ocean is not washing values away with near the suddenness we all saw them washed away in Wall street in 1930."

"With the beach gone and half of the foundation what do you plan doing with the house if it can be saved?" someone asked. 'Move it back and put it in shape. I can't complain if it goes. I got 25 years enjoyment out of this home. Had I known 26 years ago this would happen, I would still have built it."

It was 25 years ago that Knapp and other wealthy Santa Barbara county residents laid the foundation for what has become one of the Pacific coast's most exclusive beach front playgrounds. The peninsula-like strand, like Malibu's film colony, became the site of a score or more expensive cottages, tennis courts and other facilities for enjoyment of carefree seashore life.

In those days and for many years afterwards, Knapp recalled, there was more than 100 feet of fine beach on the ocean front of Sandyland. Now, as result of recent winter storms and the fierce tidal attack of the past four days, the beach has been replaced by boulders and gravel churned constantly by the surf. The ocean front cottages so far escaping the sea's surprise and devastating attack probably will have to be moved back.

Owners will hope for friendlier ocean tides which may restore much of the beach in future years.