



Final Push . . .

. . . in the demolition of the Palo Alto Park swimming pool was given this past weekend by grader equipment from Gillespie Bros. Harry Wilcoxon, standing, superintendent of the Palo

Alto Park Mutual Water District discusses work with company operator. Last wall of the pool shows in the background.

—Ravenswood Post photo

In Palo Alto Park:

Contractor Completes Filling Old Swim Pool

Once the center of activity for more than 300 swimmers daily the large swimming pool in Palo Alto Park, near Addison street, East Palo Alto, became a covered-up memory last weekend.

Work on filling the pool was sponsored by the Palo Alto Park Property Owners Association, who took on the responsibility in 1955 when the county health department ordered the pool closed.

Last weekend, the project was finished by Gillespie Bros., contractors. Now that the large hole is filled, the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Co. will get to work on construction of a needed sump hole for use when draining one of the five company wells.

Reportedly built in 1863, the pool was fed from redwood pipes tied together with wire, and was lined with large cement blocks. Its sloped walls enclosed an area 75 feet by 175 feet long. In the early days of East Palo Alto, the pool served as a source of irrigation water for the large prune orchards nearby.

Harry Wilcoxon, superintendent of the Palo Alto Mutual Water Co., reports that 14-inch cement irrigation pipes leading from the pool are all around the district.

"Whenever we come to them we just take a sledge hammer and go right on through," explains Wilcoxon when speaking of the placement of modern lines.

During World War I, the pool was used by the horse and mule depot of Camp Remount, in connection with Camp Fremont (located at Menlo Park). Records show that the cavalrymen used the pool for recreational swimming.

In 1925, the Koff Realty Co. made an unsuccessful attempt to make the pool the center of a community development. Four years later they turned it over to the water company.

With the exception of three years during World War II, when the large pool was used as an emergency storehouse for water,

the pool was used as a swimming and recreational area. The property owners group was in charge of the recreation program.

The year before it was closed, the pool boasted an average of more than 300 swimmers daily. Lack of automatic chlorination facilities was the major reason the county declared the pool unhealthy. Its use was abandoned in favor of the new pool built by Ravenswood Recreation and Park district at University avenue and Bell street.

Future for the almost 100 year old pool site is indefinite. Once the sump is finished, the Property Owners hope to erect barbecue pits and plant turf for general community use.

Villagers Elect Will Dodds New President

University Village Homeowners Association Tuesday night named Will Dodds as new president for the remainder of the calendar

Grange Plans Pot Luck Dinner for Booster Program

Booster Night for the East Palo Alto Grange has been scheduled for next Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the East Palo Alto Women's Club house.

A potluck dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m., according to Mrs. Vira Ostrander.