

a

window

to our

past

Photo by E.M. Koster and Helen Watson



SINK OR SWIM - Children line the end of the pool waiting for permission to try out the 91 degree water. The splash they made might not have been heard round the world, but it is a splash that won't be forgotten in Cayucos.

***Editor's Note:** Both articles were taken from the Cayucos Breeze in 1979. I corrected the name of Liz Minetti to Lena Minetta. As a follow-up, the Lioness Club of Cayucos continued to raise money, so the tot pool was built by the county in 1990.*

April 20, 1979

Pool Opens May 28

.....The swimming pool has been a goal of the Cayucos Lioness Club for the past 29 years.

Willadean Borchard recalled: "First we talked about it for many years. We would raise \$50 or so, but the whole project was pie-in-the-sky. Around 1969 Bobby Canet, Sue Ghezzi, Marge Wallace and I formed a committee and started pursuing the project in earnest."

Cayucos children are bused out of the area for swimming lessons. Their parents have not been happy about this.

Borchard said, "When you live by the ocean, your children should know how to swim. We need a pool in our town. Bobbie Canet has said if the pool isn't built so her children can swim in it, she'd keep working until her grandchildren can swim in it.

Well, now all of us who have been working on the project have grown children. Lena Minetti and Tena Bettencourt have grandchildren who can benefit, and Bobbie has great grandchildren."

The first money raising project was a chicken barbecue dinner annually at the Vet's Building. That went on for years. Then, the group decided that the Portuguese and Swiss background of the town's founder should be celebrated. So the chicken barbecue was changed to Polenta Stew and Linguica.

Consistently the group would raise \$600 to \$800 each year. Then a very generous gift of \$5,000 was given to the Lioness Club by George Reid, a man who retired to the community.

"He said at the rate we were going it

would take forever, and he donated the \$5,000 to our swimming pool fund," Borchard said. "We were stunned. That donation gave a tremendous push to the project."

Negotiations with local government officials eventually led to the county building the pool. Now nearing completion, the pool project has come in under budget.

The \$55,000 the Lioness Club has raised over the years will go to purchase a heater and sweep for the pool.

June 14, 1979

Hardie Pool Opens For Business

It was a proud day for the Lioness Club. After a quarter of a century of hard work, the Hardie Park Swimming Pool was opened on May 26 at 1 pm.

Willadean Borchard and many other Lioness were on hand to see their dream come true. County Park Ranger Hans "Rocky" Thiel, Supervisor Steve MacElvaine, Don Wyatt of County Parks and Beaches and Gary Hover of Facility Services took part of the celebration.

Cayucos children, numbering about 40, also attended to remind everyone what the celebration was about. Equipped with towels and pool toys,

and clad in swimming attire, the children lined the shallow end of the pool and waited for grownups to finish the formalities, so they could give the pool a try.

Finally, on the cue from Steve MacElvaine, the kids threw themselves into the 91 degree water of the 22 meter by 35 meter pool. The younger children remained in the 3 1/2 foot deep end of the pool. The older kids took advantage of the diving board at the 9 1/2 foot deep end of the pool, demonstrating a variety of creative diving forms. Many of those dives you will never see in the summer Olympics.

This first day of swimming was free. About 115 swimmers took part. Since then cost of admission has been \$1 for adults and 50 cents for high school students and younger. Right now the pool is opened on weekends. On June 15 the County Parks Department will try opening the pool seven days a week.

The attendance after June 15 will determine the new schedule.

Park Ranger Rocky Thiel told of future plans for the pool. Suggestions include adult swimming hours, night swimming, and swimming lessons. All these are still in the making.



PO Box 143
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UPDATES

Museum

We are still closed.

Website

cayucoshistoricalsociety.com

Our New E-Mail

cayucoshistorical@gmail.com



Remember where the swimming pool wasn't? Go by and look again - It's done. Back when the ground breaking took place Willadean Borchard, Joe Earley, Tena Bettencourt, Jewel Ambrosia, Pat Dillingham, and Milton Willaford helped dig the first shovel full. *Editor's Note: Incomplete listing of participants.*

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