

Pool Filled Again, But Not With Water!



THE OLD OREGON CITY SWIMMING POOL at 11th and Madison is being filled again, but this time with dirt rather than water. City trucks have been filling the pool with dirt acquired by lowering the grade on Van Buren street on the east side of Pioneer Memorial Stadium. The old 40 by 130 foot pool was constructed in 1936 at cost of \$15,000, with the Federal Works

Progress Administration paying \$12,500 and the City \$2,500. The bathhouse was constructed in 1947 at a cost of \$4,000, and the area was fenced in 1948 at cost of \$3,500. The pool was last used in 1965 and the new indoor pool was open in January, 1966. The filling of the pool will make the property usable for some other purposes such as a park.

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Old Swimming Pool to be Filled

IT IS PERHAPS FITTING THAT THE MESH WIRE FENCE mars this photo of Oregon City's old swimming pool for it has been out-of-bounds for nearly five years. Located at

11th and Madison, the old pool will gradually be filled so that the property will be usable for other purposes. See story elsewhere in this issue.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1969

Place Remembered Fondly

Pool to be Filled

Oregon City's old swimming pool, built in 1936 as part of the WPA projects, will be gradually filled in by the city. The pool was condemned in 1965 by the State Board of Health.

Located at 11th and Madison, the 40 by 130-foot concrete structure was built at a cost of \$2,500 to the city. WPA funds provided the balance of \$12,500.

According to city records, the city acquired the land where the pool is located in 1934 for \$400 and by assuming taxes and unpaid assessments of \$1,200. A bath-house was added in 1947 at the cost of \$4,000.

In 1948 and 1949, fences were added for \$3,500, and about the same time, the recreation committee recommended a nominal charge of 10 cents for use of the pool. "The attempt to charge didn't last very long," John Buol, city recorder, remembered yesterday as he recalled using the pool as a kid.

Built without a filtering system, the city added a chlorine house in 1952 for \$300 and installed equipment for \$2,000 in

an attempt to provide greater sanitary procedures. Hot water showers, required by the state, were added in 1954 at a cost of \$3,200, and miscellaneous equipment cost \$600.

Despite the improvements, the State Board of Health, over a period of years, threatened to deny a license to operate the pool because of lack of filtering. In 1963 the board urged "corrective action" and said the permit would be the last.

The Oregon City Jaycees took a survey and found the citizens believed the most important recreational facility would be a covered pool. Dr. Duane Bidgood was appointed chairman of a citizen's committee for a new pool in January 1964.

Bidgood's committee finally suggested the new pool and the State Board of Health again authorized use of the old pool during the summer of 1964. After federal interim financing fell through, the citizen's committee recommended a general obligation bond election to be held Aug. 14, 1964. After an organized campaign, the voters approved

the \$325,000 bond measure by a 524-208 margin.

But construction was delayed after all bids received in January 1965 were rejected because they were over the authorized cost. Plans were revised and in March 1965 a contract for construction of the new pool was let to Walker and Green.

The State Board of Health, still fighting on the permit, again authorized use of the old pool in the summer of 1965, the last year it was operated. Finally on Jan. 21, 1966 the present pool was opened.

Jack Donahue, city engineer, said the old pool will gradually be filled with salvage from public utility jobs around the city. No plans have been made for use of the 34,000 square feet of property owned by the city.

With a total capital expenditure of \$30,200, including the WPA grant of \$12,500, oldtimers remember the pool fondly but wouldn't trade the \$325,000 new pool for all the memories of the 33-year-old structure.