



COOLING OFF ON A HOT DAY are these Conway youngsters who are able to enjoy the town's modern swimming pool.

Swim Pool A Tribute To Community Effort

The idea for the community swimming pool come from the late Leon Germain, who for about 30 years felt it was "just too bad the kids in town didn't have a decent place to swim".

He was successful in bringing a group of citizens around to his way of thinking, and the project was planned, financed and spontaneously carried forward to its completion by the entire community. It was opened for use July 4, 1950.

During the summer of 1949, it was found a suitable piece of land could be purchased on Pumpkin Hollow Brook. A group of interested citizens met at the town hall on July 6 to discuss this project and it was unanimously decided to proceed.

Everyone Worked

A state engineer who lives in Conway surveyed the property and drew plans for an earth dam and construction was begun Sept. 26.

Bulldozers, earthmovers and a power shovel were hired and the whole town turned out to work. At times 40 to 50 and even as many as 60 volunteers with trucks or tools were working Saturdays and Sundays.

Men who had worked at their

own jobs through the day, worked on the project under flood lights in the evening. Later, the same crews cleared the slopes and landscaped the surrounding terrain. It was an inspiring example of community cooperation — of democracy in action.

Earth was taken from the banks of the hollow to build a broad, substantial earth dam. The night the cement for the spillway was poured, the men worked until midnight to finish the job.

Glory Hole

The spillway is built on the engineering classic model of a "glory hole", a morning glory shaped outlet behind the dam.

The dam is 180 feet long, 130 feet wide at the base and 10 feet wide at the top. It has a clay core eight feet wide at the base and four feet wide at the top.

The overflow consists of a 36 inch boiler pipe glory hole and a 20 foot spillway. It contains approximately 7,000 yards of earth, or about 8,500 tons, and the clay core about 670 yards of earth, or about 900 tons. All of this was moved by the people of the community.

A conservative estimate of

the cost of the dam was at least \$22,000, but because trucks, materials, technical and mechanical skills and labor were all donated, the actual cost in dollars and cents was less than \$4,500, including the hauling of more than 400 yards of sand for an excellent beach. Two small houses were given and remodeled for a bath house and refreshment stand.

The work was completed Nov. 20, 1949, and on Thanksgiving Day the gates were closed. In 20 days and 18 hours the pool was filled.

Dedication

The money was raised by contributions, card parties, suppers and other civic affairs. On July 4, the Conway Community Swimming Pool was formally dedicated by exercises on the dam.

The principal speaker was Archibald MacLeish. Features of the day were a concert by the Shelburne Falls Band, swimming contests, diving exhibitions, canoeing, refreshments and an all-round good time.

The project was completely organized and a charter of incorporation issued July 10, 1950. Expenses for maintaining the pool are met by an annual food sale and from private contributions.

Each year the town youngsters are provided with three weeks of swimming instruction by a qualified Red Cross instructor. The entrance and parking area have been paved and arrangements are being made for construction of a new bath house.

On Memorial Day, a plaque, mounted on a large boulder which had been brought into the area for that purpose, was dedicated with special ceremonies to the memory of Leon Germain.

Sportsmen Organized For Fishing, Hunting

The Conway Sportsmen's Club was organized in 1913 and during the first few years it engaged in stocking the streams with fish.

Large-mouthed bass, pike perch and horned pout from the state hatcheries were placed in Lake Wequamok. Pheasants and rabbits have at times been placed in the woods for the

farm on Hart Rd., for a club house. Since then a pavilion has been constructed. Popular is the annual clam bake in August.

Serving as president for the longest number of years was Rollie L. Roberts, who last year was presented a plaque in appreciation for his length of service as the club's president. The club also sponsors a fish-