

Underscore prominently the importance of proper design and plans for pools. Money spent on good designing and engineering is the best investment in any pool, and this statement is not limited to swimming pools. It can be applied to any structure worth while.

The matter of financing can not be ignored or forgotten entirely until plans and specifications are available; but the final detail of financing construction and operation can not be set up until the design is completed. The design must be made to fit the available budget, and it must also fit the size and type of the community, but the financial budget must be made to provide certain definite features in design and equipment which are absolutely essential to safety and health. If these essential features can not be provided it is better not to have a swimming pool, as results would be harmful rather than beneficial. A competent swimming pool authority or engineer knows what features can be skimped safely and which ones are essential.

No plan of construction should be decided before first submitting it to, conferring with, and securing the approval of the State Department of Public Health, which ranks as the outstanding authority on swimming pools in the entire United States. Our State Health Department has rendered invaluable service to many cities in Illinois, not only in aiding and guiding them in selecting proper pool designs, but in assisting them in community meetings on swimming pool promotion.

There are various ways of financing community swimming pools. Pools have been financed successfully through municipal park board which have taxing power, sometimes through other municipal departments, through civic clubs and organizations, through public subscriptions, through municipal bond issues, by using W.P.A. and/or P.W.A. assistance, and other ways.

In the City of Cairo, Illinois, a pool was constructed a number of years ago, sponsored and financed by the Rotary Club, which club was supported in the project by a number of business firms who were led to realize the value of the pool to their employees and their employees' children. This old pool became obsolete and was scrapped in 1936, when a new modern pool was constructed as a municipal pool in the name of the city, with title in the city. However, the Rotary Club provided all funds necessary from its own treasury and by selling advance season pool tickets to the public to match W.P.A. funds and labor for the construction. Although this is a municipal pool, owned by the city, not one cent of the funds for construction or operation has come out of the city treasury. The total cost of this pool, including W.P.A. assistance, was about \$60,000.

An operating corporation, organized by the Rotary Club, handles all the detail of operating and financing the pool for the city. On this basis the local pool investment is on a self liquidating schedule, operating revenues paying all expenses and retiring the investment of the community.

The Cairo pool is free from children of school age during the entire morning of each day until eleven o'clock. During the afternoon and evening of each day adults pay 25¢ and children pay 10¢ admission. Spectators, for whom spacious attractive quarters are provided with a guard fence between them and the bathing areas, pay 10¢ admission. The pool is very popular and patronage is excellent.

Cairo points with pride to the fact that since the original community pool was provided not a single child has lost its life from swimming in the nearby rivers. Prior to the construction of a swimming pool every year took its toll of life of children of school age, drowned while swimming in the rivers.