

# Swimming Pool For \$96

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whopping 50% of the 450 families put down their six dollars and indicated that they'd be willing to pay the \$60 initiation fee, plus just \$30-per year dues for the entire family, however big the family, and six dollars per year tax. It was much less than the average family would invest in a summer vacation, and would provide summer recreation for the entire family.

## Everybody In The Act

Our first meeting was called in the A&P store parking area on Sunday, July 1, 1956. Officers were elected. I was chosen, with eleven others, to serve on the board. We made one happy discovery. There were experts among us who could help in almost every phase of planning. Scott Stubbs, our first president, was a consulting engineer. R. K. Hutton, an accountant, could help us figure our costs. Secretary of our group, R. E. Lewis, happened to be an attorney. We had the district manager of an electrical supply company who agreed to get our pool lighting at cost. There was even a tax expert among us! This was how we discovered, early in the game, that we could save a lot in taxes by chartering our Association as a non-profit corporation "organized for the purpose of operating a swimming pool and social club for the sole benefit of members." We secured sample charters from almost every state in the union, and from many corporations which employed Robindell residents. We picked the best and most adaptable features from these and included them in the Robindell Recreation Association's charter.

We then needed a pool contractor. How to find the right one? We consulted the yellow pages of the telephone directory, and invited all to submit bids. They varied widely. The low bid saved us \$2,000!

Our accountant then sat down and figured the pool would cost us about \$12,500. It would accommodate 750 families or 3,000 people. The Gunite-sprayed pool was to be built so it could be expanded into a competition-sized pool for an additional \$3,000 to \$4,000 when funds became available.

Bob Kuldell then donated the land, worth \$5,000. We thanked him by giving him 40 memberships which he could offer to new residents in homes then being built. This covered his cost for the land.

## Raising The Ante

After many coffee klatches (the coffee tab ran high!) we just went ahead and plunged. If we had it to do over, we'd have got our construction cost in the bank before we started, as a contractor has to be paid in full and if our obligations couldn't be met, a mechanic's lien could be obtained against us. As it was, we just began a house-to-house campaign to collect the balance of the \$96.00 from each for initiation fees and first year's dues needed to finance the project. While 250

families had already paid the six dollars indicating they'd go along with the \$96.00 tax to finance costs, only 105 came through!

Everybody in the entire subdivision seemed suddenly to be expanding his family, and money was tight. Those who weren't, seemed to be buying new carpeting or hi-fi, with no money left over. What to do? We decided to approach the bank for a loan. But we were a non-profit organization, and that made us a bad risk. The only way we could secure the loan, we discovered, was for three of us to sign the note and make ourselves responsible. We did—and it was a decision that none of us has ever regretted.

Because of our developer's cooperative spirit, our Association now owns its land in fee and its pool in entirety, with no ties to the developer. Its all ours and its all really quite wonderful!

## Operation Success

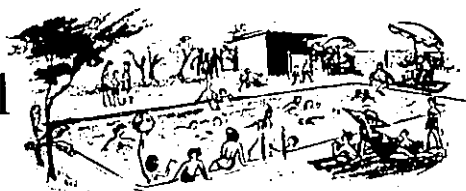
Use of the pool includes free swimming lessons by American Red Cross instructors. We could have cut corners on paying salaries to instructors, since they range from about \$200 to \$400 per month. But we got the best, and it has paid off. Some of our kids who were non-swimmers two years ago walked off with ninth place among sixteen veteran teams in the Junior Olympics recently—and there hasn't been a single accident in the pool. We operate it seven days a week during the swimming season and keep it open until 9 p.m. to give late-working residents a chance for a dip before dinner. Wednesday nights, from seven until nine, we restrict the pool to adults to give parents time to themselves.

Our operating cost, during the swimming season runs to about \$1000 per month, and we have taken out a \$50,000 liability insurance policy which costs the Association only \$70 per year.

It would be overly modest not to admit that our pool is an unqualified success. We've constructed \$800 worth of rest rooms with redwood siding and slab floors. We've bought an \$859.76 enclosure and furnished the area with \$200.66 worth of outdoor tables and chairs. We have more than 250 memberships and could sell more to surrounding communities if we wished to do so. The pool has increased the resale value of all our houses, and if we care to sell our pool memberships when we sell our property, it's a cinch to do so.

When we need extra funds, the community spirit which the pool has helped to build so successfully, can be used to raise money through dances, raffles, and other activities.

The Robindell pool is a good plan for luxury living on a budget income. It offers new friends, new fun, and a ready-made vacation spot right in our own backyard—just about the biggest \$96.00 worth we could hope to find!



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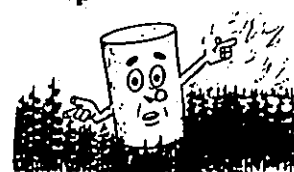


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