

Memorial Park, the third city park, and the Civic Bowl at 373-385 Park Way were built in 1937-1939 with federal WPA funds. The Civic Bowl Theatre was designed by architect Percy Burnham in 1949. The city built a recreation center with gym and pool in Memorial Park at 373 Park Way, known today as the Parkway Community Center and Gymnasium, designed by local architect Victor Wulff, dedicated Mar. 23, 1955, on the site of the USO building erected by the federal government in 1941. The JayCees began the annual Aquatic show in the center in 1955.



Memorial Park and Civic Bowl ca. 1949, photo CCHU 063 from CV Library

1931/09/28 - PWA ask amendment to original bid of \$35,000 to construct recreation center and swimming pool here. (Chula Vista Star, Sep. 30, 1949.)

1934/11/19 - Community Center Building planned as SERA project, would cost city \$6000, city to furnish the ground and pay for the architect. (May 23, 1938 = BODMER, "Letter of Retainer": Cl. Brown introduced Mr. H. Louis Bodmer to the members of the Council and Mayor Done informed the council that Ur. Bodmer, a licensed architect of San Diego, had offered to draw up the necessary plans and specifications for proposed buildings and improvements to be built in the city park and on the property recently leased from the Chula Vista Grammar School District for submittal to the proper PWA officials for their acceptance, with the condition that should the PWA accept a loan or loan grant application from the City of Chula Vista and should the citizens elect to vote the necessary monies that Mr. Bodmer be retained as architect and supervisor for the said improvement at a commission of 6% for that & hue of the work for which he draws the said plans and specifications. (City Council Minutes, Nov. 19, 1934.)

1936/08/28 - election approved \$2500 purchase of 5-acre site across from grammar school for rec center and playground and ball park, vote was 584-453 (light turnout), and city can now seek federal funds to build a rec center (Chula Vista Star, Aug. 28, 1936.)

1937/01/08 - "City Council Gets 95 Day Option To Buy \$5500 Recreational Site." - D. N. Millan, San Diego Trust and Savings bank VP, proposed in letter to sell the city the two lots for a total of \$5500. Option is good until April 6. Only R. G. Rife opposed the purchase. "Development of the Third to Second aves, north of Alma st. site as a shrub-bordered, attractive recreation park, with facilities for children and adults, was visioned by Mayor C. V. Brown." After August election, W. C. Stephens had submitted bid of \$2600 and Calvin Lauderbach withdrew property for sale in letter received Monday. -- Jan. 14 - City began work on new 9-acre municipal park site recently purchased for \$5500 bet Alma and Madronna. Trees and pool and creek will come later, "but for the present there is the extension of Alma st. between Third and Second aves. and the extension of the culvert running beneath Third ave." -- Apr. 2 - election to be held to authorize city to spend \$5500 to buy playground site. "The site now offered to the city is owned by the San Diego Trust and Savings Bank, and comprises about 8.5 acres bounded on the east by Third Ave, on the west by Second Ave., on the south by Alma St., and on the north by the packing house and railroad depot." City for some time has held an option to buy the site, last year was authorized to spend \$2500 that it still has, so this year needs to raise only \$3000. -- Apr. 16 - election approved purchase by vote of 282 to 120 (Chula Vista Star, Jan. 8, 1937.)

1937/05/03 - 1937/04/12 - PARK NEGOTIATION: Upon motion by Cl. Lyons, seconded by Cl. Boltz, which carried, the City Attorney was instructed to negotiate with proper representatives of the San Diego Trust & Savings Bank for the purchase of Lots 25 and 26 in Block CCE. "Right of Way, of Quarter Section 137 in Chula Vista, said method of payment to be as follows: \$2500.00 cash, ~1500.00 on or before December 15, 1937 & \$1500.00 balance on or before June 1, 1938. (City Council Minutes, Apr. 12, 1937.) 1937/05/03 - PARK SITE TRANSFER: Cl. Howe offered Resolution No. 474, which is a resolution instructing the City Attorney to effect, with the San Diego Trust & Savings Bank, the transfer of parksite property to the City of Chula Vista. The resolution was read and upon motion by Cl. Boltz, seconded by Cl. Howe, was passed and adopted as read by the following vote, to-wit: AYES: Cl. Boltz, Brown, Howe, Tirumons and Rife. NOES: None. ABSENT: None. (City Council Minutes, May 3, 1937.) (City Council Minutes, May 3, 1937.)

1937/06/14 - PARK BUILDING FUNDS: The City Engineer informed the Council that he had contacted the National Youth Administration in regard to obtaining funds for the building of a Community house on the park site but that their policy was not in supplying funds but in development of Youth Programs. Also the Works Progress Administration was contacted but their aid would be limited to 6% of material costs and the furnishing of common labor only as there is a lack of skilled labor at this time. Nothing definite could be done at this time under the above conditions. PLAZA FLOWER BEDS: The City Engineer stated that the National Youth Administration organization in Chula Vista had a large lot devoted to the raising of flowers and would be anxious in the planting and caring of flowers on city property. He suggested that circular beds be planted in the plaza; one to be located between each end and walkway. The Council stated they approved the suggestion. The City Engineer also informed the Council that the said organization could be relied upon to help in planting and caring for the flowers at the library and on certain parkings. This too, met with the hearty approval of the Council. - NYA WPA (City Council Minutes, June 14, 1937.)

1937/08/06 - Weissgerber to start work on city park site, will grade Alma St and make connection with Garret from G St (Chula Vista Star, Aug. 6, 1937.)

1938/01/14 - work begins on city park at Alma St. (Chula Vista Star, Jan. 14, 1938.)

1938/03/04 - "About 100 sturdy cyprus trees have been donated to the city to be set out in the new park..." ground been prepared. The first tree, a good-sized palm was set out in the park last Friday, given by the estate of Mrs. Copeland. (Chula Vista Star, Mar. 4, 1938.)

1938/03/04 - City, WPA, School to join in building a 1000-seat grandstand in the eastern part of the new Alma St park, city to lease the 5-acre site with option to buy, the western part to be developed later. The site has been idle except for use by WPA groups, Boy Scouts, and a make-shift ball park. -- Mar. 18 - George Marston recommended city employ a landscape architect for the park (Chula Vista Star, Mar. 4, 1938.)

1938/06/11 - TENTATIVE PLANS OF PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS: Mr. Bodmer presented tentative plans for the proposed municipal buildings which were included in the "Letter of Retainer" given him at a prior meeting and which did not include the improvements in the ball park. He explained the floor plan of each of the buildings and they were so drawn as to allow for extensions on each to prepare for necessary expansion. The total cost, however, was estimated to be considerably higher than at first anticipated and not including the grand stand and improvements in the ball park it came to \$154,666.00. The Council felt that the building plan should not be lessened and after considerable discussion over the feasibility of keeping the swimming pool and large overhang on this particular program they decided to leave them off and to include the grand stand, wall and necessary toilet facilities for the ball park. This then left an estimated total of \$111,000.00. Mr. Bodmer advised that inasmuch as the bond issue would in all probability be for a 50 year period that the playground property, which is leased for only 30 years, be re-leased so that it would cover a period of 50 years. The City Attorney informed the City Council that he believed this could be obtained without too much difficulty. Mr. Bodmer requested that a supplemental Letter of Retainer be given him stipulating that the swimming pool and buildings thereto be omitted and that the grand stand, wall and toilet facilities for same be included. Upon motion by Cl. Timmons, seconded by Cl. Brown, which carried, the Clerk was instructed to give Mr. Bodmer a supplemental Letter of Retainer as above shown. Mr. Bodmer stated that he would have a perspective of the buildings that could be put on display to show the electors just what they could expect to get for the money voted. The City Attorney reported that Mayor Done and he anticipated being in San Francisco week after next and if the necessary specifications could be furnished at that time they would attempt to contact the proper PWA officials regarding same. Mr. Bodmer stated that he would either have the plans and specifications ready for them Thursday evening or have them available in San Francisco the early part of the week following. (City Council Minutes, June 11, 1938)

1938/08/01 - MUNICIPAL BLDGS AND RECREATIONAL CENTER: Mr. Bodmer presented redrafted plans of proposed municipal buildings and recreational center which included the following: A city hall, combined police and fire department building, grand stand for ball park, a pool, tennis, quoit, shuffleboard and horse shoe courts. He proposed that of the total \$104,415.15 should be done through PWA and the \$5,000 balance should be done through WPA with a total cost to the City of \$59,288.35. He stressed the importance of having the tentative plans submitted at the earliest possible time as September 1st is the last date for receiving applications. Cl. Howe stated that he did not feel that the tax payers of Chula Vista would or could support such a heavy bond issue inasmuch as they are at the present time paying off a large amount of school bonds and paving bonds and that the initial bond issue would not be the only increased expense. Mr. Bodmer had elected to re-draft the original to the present plan for which the Council had informally given him the privilege of dropping the matter for the estimated cost of the election or of the above said redraft inasmuch as they felt the original plans had very little chance of being approved by the tax payers. He, however, requested the Council to officially approve the redrafted plan as submitted. Upon motion by Cl. Brown, seconded by Cl. Timmons, which carried with Cl. Eowe voting "No" Mr. Bodmer was instructed to prepare the necessary application based upon the plans as submitted at this meeting and have said application mailed by August 12th. The City Attorney assured Mr. Bodmer that he would cooperate with him to the fullest extent in having the necessary information available. (City Council Minutes, August 1, 1938)

1938/08/12 - PWA APPLICATION: Mr. L. Bodmer presented to the Council for their consideration maps, blue prints and necessary data for the contemplated building improvements, which include

the new city hall, police and fire station, swimming pool and bath-house, grand-stand, tennis, shuffleboard and horse-shoe courts. The total cost as presented was \$110,182.85, of which \$105,182.85 would be done under P. W. A. and \$5,000 done under W. P.A.; the City's share of the P. W. A. project being \$57,478.23 and the W. P. A. project \$1950.00, or a total of \$59,428.23. The only requirement lacking for application presentation is the State Prison Board's approval on the fire and police station, which has not been returned to Mr. Bodmer. Mr. Bodmer stated, however, that he would wire the State Prison Board tonight to determine whether or not the said approval had been given and if approved would mail the presented plans Saturday and the approval of the State Board upon its arrival. Gl. Bryant offered Resolution. No. 586, a resolution authorizing the City of Chula Vista to file application to the United States of America for a loan and grant to aid in financing the construction of the above listed improvements and designating Arthur Done to furnish such information as the Government may request. The resolution was read and was passed and adopted as read by the following vote, to-wit: AYES: Cl. Brown, Bryant and Done; NOES: Cl. Howe; ABSENT: Cl. Brown. (City Council Minutes, Aug. 12, 1938.)

1938/09/06 - NYA PROJECT: The City Engineer reported that the proper officials had approved the transfer of the NYA Project from the Senior High School grounds to the new City Park and that the City's contribution would consist mainly of water and seed bills and he requested the Council's approval of the expenditure of money in the WPA account for expenses which might be incurred through this project. The Council stated that they had intended the money set up in the WPA account to be used for projects sponsored by the City and supported by WPA, NYA, etc. and they did not intend to have it confined to the WPA exclusively. The City Engineer outlined the need of extending the culvert further to the West and the land-soaping to be done around the proposed recreational courts. (City Council Minutes, Sept. 6, 1938.)

1939 ca - CENT 0377 Title Aerial View of Chula Vista Looking West Creator Unknown Date Created Unknown Subject (Topic) Aerial photographs; Amphitheaters; Packing plants; Schools; Social & civic facilities Physical Description 1 black and white photographic print; 6 x 9.5 in. Subject (Place) Parkway (street in middle) is running west to the bay. It crossed Fourth Avenue. G Street is on the left. Chula Vista Junior High School is upper left. Description View shows Memorial Bowl, the recreation center, and the Mutual Orange Distributors packing plant. ()

1939/04/14 - CV boy drowns in gravel pit, Clifton Blabon, 14, Alvarado St, was swimming at Thomson's gravel pit in Sweetwater Valley, need for public pool in CV (but city Council not in favor) (Chula Vista Star, Apr. 14, 1939.)

1939/09/29 - highlights of Fiesta de la Luna, 1000 attended play Rose of the Rancho in civic Bowl Friday and Sat, 200 gals of lemonade served free to visitors at packing houses lemon exhibit tent Saturday, 68 merchants participated with window displays, merry-go-round, ponies, airplane (Chula Vista Star, Friday, Sept. 29, 1939)

1939/12/22 - The Memorial bowl will be the location of a community Christmas party for the first time Sunday afternoon. Helen Scott will distribute 130 food baskets to 600 deserving residents tomorrow. Last year 160 baskets were provided. (Chula Vista Star Dec. 22, 1939.) -- Dec. 29 = CV had "a lane of brightly lighted trees leading to the recently dedicated living Christmas tree in the park. Scores of residences were decorated with lovely outdoor trees. A huge living tree at the home of Mrs. Wallace Campbell on Sixth Ave was lighted with more than 300 colorful bulbs, topped with a huge Christmas star. The Robert Mueller home on Sixth Ave was lovely with its huge lighted tree in the yard, which could be seen for several blocks. Joe Lowe of the CV Electric Co. had one of the most original outdoor displays. A beautifully lighted tree with a snow scene and old Santa and his reindeer had been arranged in the yard, and hundreds of Chula Vistans visited the home to view Lowe's handiwork. Probably the most elaborately decorated and planned tree in the residential district was at the home of Robert Ratcliffe, F Street. This huge tree was decorated with scores of lights. Around it

were many figuerines, a snow-covered village scene from which lights glowed from each church and home and there was a Santa and his sleigh, drawn by six snow-white reindeer. On the piano nearby, with its background of blue and silver stars, scores of figuerines depicting the wisemen and shepherds of the Christmas story. The decorating was done by Mrs. Ratcliffe, who is known for her Christmas home displays," - displays at Owl Buffet, Bank of America, Fredericka Home. The American Legion post reported a record sale of trees this year. (Chula Vista Star Dec. 29, 1939.) (Chula Vista Star Dec. 22, 1939.)

1940/03/22 - "Using flagstones hauled here from the Imperial Valley desert by Lynn Love, street superintendent, National Youth Administration workers this week completed a 3-week job of surfacing the circle drive around the park bowl pool." Chester Norman is working under Love, is directing the work of the NYA youths on park beautification. Love announced plans to complete the planting of palms on Alma St from Third Ave to Second Ave. Ten palms were planted some time ago in the parkway from Third Ave to Garrett St and the center strip has been curbed and grassed. (Chula Vista Star, Friday, Mar. 22, 1940.)

1940/03/29 - 1st Easter sunrise service was in civic bowl, 450 people in morning fog (Chula Vista Star, Mar. 29, 1940.)

1940/09/06 - I Am An American program at civic bowl Sept. 22, sponsored by CofC -- full page ad p. 4 (Chula Vista Star, Sept. 6, 1940.)

1940/09/19 - REST ROOMS: The clerk read a letter from Mrs. Paul Otis, Secretary of the South Chula Vista P. T. A., requesting the Council's consideration in the matter of providing adequate rest room facilities in the ball park and in the civic bowl. The clerk was instructed to write Mrs. Otis explaining that inasmuch as the City does not own the ball park there were no facilities contemplated there but that plans have already been made for the installation of adequate rest room facilities in the civic bowl as soon as funds are available. (City Council Minutes,)

1940/09/27 - I Am An American event was at the civic bowl Sunday, speaker was WW1 vet S. W. Fuller -- all men 21-35 must fill out selective service forms (Chula Vista Star, Sept. 27, 1940.)

1940/12/13 - CV will light Christmas lights on 3rd ave tomorrow, chairman Mrs. Daisy Bigelow. Santa Claus Lane will extend from 3rd Ave to the civic Bowl. The Christmas pageant in the civic bowl Dec. 22 directed by Mrs. Augusta Bispham Starkey and Mrs. Marie Riesland. Fredericka Home will have attractive Christmas display. (Chula Vista Star, Dec. 13, 1940.)

1941 - With the outbreak of World War II, Idell joined the swing shift at Rohr and worked in the Tool Crib Department during the war years. Chet had supervised the building of the city's first park, Memorial, so when the city formed the Park Department, Chet was appointed the first park superintendent. Chet was known for his devotion to his job and to the people of Chula Vista. The old-timers will tell you how he helped the Pony League, the Garden Club, the Woman's Club, etc. He was always there with the required equipment and to lend a helping hand. He put in long hours on the annual Fiesta, and of course, got into the spirit with his beards and costumes. On rainy nights, Chet would be out placing barricades on city streets or pumping out nooded residences and at holiday times delivering baskets of food to the needy. (Chula Vista Historical Society. Family, Friends, and Homes. San Diego CA: Tecolote Publications, 1991.)

1941/01/24 - Plan favored by city council to build a Veterans and Boy Scout community center, as proposed in petition by the Jean F. Loba American Legion Post for lease at corner of 1st Ave and C St, part of a city park tract on the northern boundary. A building committee consists of Millard Barsch, chairman, Martin Nuss, Capt. Charles Perkins, Roy Lawton, Val Kuhn, Bill Owens, Bob Guerin, Roy McGee. (Chula Vista Star, Friday, Jan. 24, 1941.)

1941/02/10 - City Council passed ordinance Feb. 10 changing street names, Alma to Parkway, 1st Ave to Fifth, 2nd Ave to Fourth, 4th Ave to Second, 5th Ave to First, 6th Ave to Hilltop. notes on Alma Street: Alma Street was first dedicated in subdivision map 1292 filed 1910 by Ed Melville for his Chula Vista Realty tract north of G Street between Broadway and 5th Ave. It was probably named after Ed's youngest daughter, Alma. By the time Howe's subdivision was built along G Street in 1926, Alma Street extended from Broadway to Third Avenue. Due to the large number of British families living around the street in the 1930s, it was known as "Little England." In Feb. 1941 the City Council changed the name of the street to Parkway because the PWA had finished construction of Memorial Park and Bowl along the street. (Chula Vista Star, Friday, Feb. 14, 1941.)

1941/08/22 - As usual, the dinner-dance at the Woman's club house started the Fiesta off to an auspicious start, with Mrs. Marie Riesland and her assistant serving Spanish food day and night in the patio, kiddies parade Fri afternoon, then big parade Sat drew 10,000, with over 300 horses led by grand marshall Walter Church magnificently mounted, was line 3 miles long, then horse show at the F st ball park, awards given out after parade passed in review. The new play "Heart's Desire" was presented in the CV Civic Bowl Fri thru Monday, under direction of producers and playwrights Jack and Pauline Millan (Chula Vista Star, Aug. 22, 1941.)

1941/08/22 - CV to get new USO bldg, one of 5 to be built in the county for \$35,000 each with federal money. Two in SD, one in La Jolla, NC, CV. The site will be corner of Fourth Ave and Park drive, on the extreme west corner. The city will provide a long-term lease, and the federal government will pay for the bldg, and the USO will operate it. (Chula Vista Star, Friday, Aug. 22, 1941.)

1943/06/25 - names of 700 men and women from CV and vicinity serving with armed forces will be on Roll of Honor plaque at civic bowl (Chula Vista Star, June 25, 1943.)

1944/03/21 - REQ,UEBr FOR 1J:EIOORLIU.: Maurice Hooper asked the City Council in a letter to make some prOVision for the erection of a memorial to honor Chula Vista's war dead. The City clerk was authorized to ,Wlswer MI'.Hooper and advise hill that the Council has in mind a MemORial Park for this purpose at the end of hostilit:ifls. (City Council Minutes, 1944.)

1944/06/12 - USE OF CIVIC BOWL: Mr. Simpson appeared before Council to explain a program planned for the months of July and August, in which the Civic Bowl would be used for a community sing with short inspirational talks, followed by motion pictures. He simply wished an expression of the council as to their approval or disapproval to such a program and explained that the matter would be presented later in definite form. The Council expressed as willing to cooperate in such a program. (City Council Minutes, June 12, 1944.)

1948/06/04 - CVHS first graduating class of 149 receive diplomas at the civic bowl (Chula Vista Star, June 4, 1948.)

1949/04/12 - CIVIC BOWL THEATRE Mr. Percy Burnham presented the final plans for the Civic Bowl Theater. Upon motion by Councilman Riesland, seconded by Councilman Nashold, which carried, the plans were accepted and the City Attorney and City Engineer instructed to prepare an advertisement for bids for the construction of the theatre. Mr. Coyle and Mr. Schwab, ~ representing the Fiesta De La Luna ASSOCIATION, stated that it would contribute \$4,500 for additional lighting, furnishings, end sound eqUipment for the theatre with the understanding that a suitable plaque in commemoration of War Veterans be put up. (City Council Minutes, Apr. 12, 1949)

1949/05/10 - RESOLUTION NO. 1023A- Accepting bid for completion of Park Bowl Theatre. [civic bowl outdoor theater] (City Council Minutes,)

1949/05/13 - Civic Bowl construction to be completed, with 2nd story, built-in stairs, in time for "Rose of the Rancho" play during Fiesta July 7-10 (Chula Vista Star, May 13, 1949.)

1949/06/10 - CVHS second graduating class of 186 seniors will graduate Wed [June 15] in Civic Bowl. A diploma will be given to polio victim Rosemary Wagner of Nestor, crippled since age 5, but home-schooled by tutor Arline Fay. (Chula Vista Star, June 10, 1949.)

1949/06/14 - CIVIC BOWL THEATRE: A Mr. Keith Atherton appeared before the Council to request that they authorize the Fiesta De La Luna Association to install sound system and electric poles for lights. It was moved by Councilman Riesland, seconded by Councilman Winald, and carried, that such authorization be granted at no expense to the City. (City Council Minutes,)

1949/06/17 - CVHS commencement yesterday in Civic Bowl for 181 seniors (Chula Vista Star, June 17, 1949.)

1949/08/16 - bill for hardware for C. V. Outdoor Theatre, \$149.61 [in civic bowl] (City Council Minutes,)

1950/01/27 - War Memorial plaque planned for city park by Veterans Coordinating Council named by Mayor Koestler, with funds from Fiesta de la Luna (Chula Vista Star Jan. 27, 1950.)

1950/11/21 - SWIMMING POOL - The Council discussed at length, the proposed location of a swimming pool on the high school grounds, as well as the possible location of the pool at the South West corner of G Street and Fourth Avenue. It was moved by Councilman DeWolfe, seconded by Councilman Kidder, and carried, that the Recreation Commission give further consideration to the location and investigate the possible acquisition of the property at the corner of G Street and Fourth Avenue and present their proposal to the Planning Commission at their next meeting, a proposal of the Planning Commission and Recreation Commission to be presented at the next City Council Meeting. (City Council Minutes, Nov. 21, 1950.)

1951/04/17 - Swimming Pool Site - Mr. C. V. Brown appeared before the Council representing the Recreation Commission with regard to a site for proposed swimming pool. He reported that the Commission recommends that the pool be located at Fourth Avenue and Parkway, on Park land. No action was taken on the matter. (City Council Minutes, April 17, 1951.)

1952/09/25 - CHULA VISTA -CITY PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL City planners approve swimming pool, gym and tennis courts. Sept. 25, '52 A:1:7 (Chula Vista Star, Sept. 25, 1952.)

1952/10/21 - RECOMMENDATIONS OF MAYOR'S POOL SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE - Cl. Hobel, in reporting on the swimming pool committee's recommendations, stated it was the committee's desire that Kyle Stewart be appointed to fill the vacancy of William Drew on the Committee. It was moved by Cl. Halferty, seconded by Councilman Logan, and carried, that Kyle Stewart be appointed as Planning Commission Member to serve on the swimming pool Committee. Cl. Hobel stated that the committee had gone over sketches of locations and plans but details were to be worked out at a later meeting, so there was no recommendation as to the amount of a bond issue at this time. It was recommended that the project be called "Sport Center". Mayor Riesland appointed John Lewis ex-officio member of the swimming pool committee. (City Council Minutes, Oct. 21, 1952.)

1953/01/15 - editorial - voter approval of \$375,000 for a swimming pool and gym is "a huge step forward in the future of Chula Vista - A new era for Chula Vista - for the first time will make available the only place south of San Diego where upwards of 1000 people can hold a party. - Long has been

the cry for more and more playground and recreational facilities. Councilmen have come and gone with this pledge on their breath... Tuesday, January 20, 1952, will be recognized by many as a Red Letter Day for Chula Vista." (Chula Vista Star, Jan. 15, 1953.)

1953/01/27 - RESOLUTION No. 1400 - Stating the result of the canvass of election returns of the Special Bond Election held January 20, 1953. Clerk canvassed the returns of the special bond election held in the City of Chula Vista on January 20, 1953, pursuant to Ordinance No. 464, and has declared the result of said election. That the bond proposition voted upon at said election is as follows: "BOND PROPOSITION: Shall the City of Chula Vista incur a bonded indebtedness in the principal sum of \$375,000.00 for the purpose of the acquisition and construction by the City of Chula Vista of a certain municipal improvement, to-wit: recreation facilities (with parking area for the parking of motor vehicles of persons using such facilities), such recreation facilities to consist of tennis courts, a swimming pool (with water heating and purification apparatus) and a building adjacent thereto for a bath house and gymnasium, with heating and water heating apparatus, dressing rooms, showers and toilets, including the acquisition of all fixtures and furniture and the construction of all work necessary therefor?" 2555 voted yes, 1030 voted no, out of total 3585 votes (City Council Minutes, Jan. 27, 1953.)

1953/02/17 - APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT for Swimming Pool - After reviewing the fact that six architects had been interviewed by the Council and the Mayor's Special Swimming Pool Committee it was moved by the Councilman Halferty, seconded by Councilman DeWolfe, and carried, that the firm of Johnson, Hatch and Wulff be appointed architects for the swimming pool, with the reservation that the mechanical engineer they select be subject to Council approval. The motion carried (City Council Minutes, Feb. 17, 1953.)

1953/09/17 - drawing of proposed gym and swimming pool recreation center to cost \$375,000. (Chula Vista Star, Sept. 17, 1953.)

1954/05/06 - history of civic pool and gym to date, prepared by city administrator R. A. Floyd. Mayor Riesland appointed a Swimming Pool Committee led by Mr. Hobel, decided on a gym and pool west of the community recreation bldg at corner of 4th and Parkway. Special bond election of Jan. 20, 1953, authorized the project. Gym seating capacity to be 1500, and with seats on the floor can be 2100, stage added and club room in rear. (Chula Vista Star, May 6, 1954.)

1954/07/29 - editorial - "CV is now gripped no doubt in its greatest political hassle in history, and is facing an unusual twist with the City Council unanimously inviting the Grand Jury to come in a make a full investigation of the manner in which the city business is being handled, with special emphasis on the swimming pool and proposed 1911 street improvement projects." This is "a fiasco which deals heavily in personalities and later may prove to be only a contest to see whose bull ate the cabbage. If there is a small selfish clique at the Civic Center, it is well that they be exposed, and if it is only a contest to trade cushion warmers, it is time that the sheets be pulled down so all may see." (Chula Vista Star, July 29, 1954.)

1954/09 - Sept - Council lifts the sidewalk proposal from improvement plan, but recall petitions proceed - pool and gym to be completed by Dec. 1, groundbreaking for library ("Highlights of the Year review for 1954," Chula Vista Star, Dec. 30, 1954.)

1954/09/09 - Grand jury said recall matter was mostly political, but did find the expenditures for the pool and gym were irregular. Citizens League has enough signatures on petitions to push thru the recall election. (Chula Vista Star-News, Sept. 9, 1954.)

1955/02/03 - Mansell critical of \$50,000 spent for pool and gym before bond issue passed. New Recreation Center is finished and will be accepted by Council next week. Dedication of the new pool

and gym/rec center will be March 23. There will be a dinner in the Community Building adjoining the new center (Chula Vista Star-News, Feb. 3, 1955.)

1955/02/24 - -- Dedication of new Recreation Center and Swimming Pool to be March 23-26, to include aquatic show, nationally known orchestra. (Chula Vista Star-News, Feb. 24, 1955.)

1955/03/17 - -- new rec center and pool to open, cost \$430,000 (Chula Vista Star-News, Mar. 17, 1955.)

1955/03/23 - Dedication of new Recreation Center and Swimming Pool to be March 23-26, to include aquatic show, nationally known orchestra. (Chula Vista Star-News, 1955/02/24)

1956/04/12 - Oscar Weissgerber retires, 17 years with Navy engineers, was city engineer 1931-34, active in designing the present Memorial Park, originally called for a swimming pool where the bowl is now located but pool lost in an election and bowl built later by WPA. "The park was only a gully when the city bought it and Park Way was only a foot path." He moved utility poles off 3rd ave to alleys. (Chula Vista Star-News, Apr. 12, 1956.)

1957/09/25 - Community Recreation -- To accomplish these basic needs in recreation has been the goal of the Park and Recreation Commission At the present time we have one of the finest programs In Southern California. Almost half a million In attendance was recorded last year at our playgrounds, gym, plunge and Youth Center. There are eight playgrounds in operation at the present time and two more will be added this fall. Various games in season are offered besides low organized games, arts, crafts, and rhythm for the younger children. The gymnasium offers a variety of activities for all ages of youth and adults. Classes in wrestling, weight lifting, trampoline as well as basketball, volleyball and badminton are enjoyed by all age groups. Chula Vista also has an outstanding gymnastic program. The youth center is appealing, especially to teenagers. This center offers them a chance to develop socially as well as enjoy themselves of the many activities that are planned each month. The youth center has organized groups for teenage dances as well as special activities such as the camera club, charm and model class, square dance instruction and field trips. Other facilities include a reading room, snack bar, social lounge and indoor games of all types. One of the most popular places in Chula Vista during the summer months is the plunge. Over 3000 children of elementary age were registered this Summer for our learn to swim program. During the Fall and Spring the High School and Junior High School use these facilities in their physical education classes. There are also two evenings a week reserved for adults and adult swimming instruction. The rest of the time the pool is available to everyone and can accommodate approximately 500 swimmers at one time. There are three park areas in Chula Vista; Memorial Park on Parkway, Eucalyptus Park at 4th and "c" Streets and the small park behind the old library building. Memorial Park with its outdoor amphitheatre is an ideal picnic area for the family. Swings and slides are available and a new slide and merry-go-round will be installed before schools starts. Outdoor shuffleboard is enjoyed here by some of our senior citizens. Eucalyptus Park is undergoing repairs at the present time but still offers an area for picnics, barbecues and archery. It is used for Girl Scouts, and Campfire Girls for their day camps. The library park is small but adds to the attractiveness of the downtown area. It is hoped that additional land may be obtained to meet the needs of one of California's fastest growing cities. Chula Vista has a right to be proud of its excellent recreation facilities, and we in recreation are happy to serve you. (photo) small drawing of Chula Vista's recreation center and plunge (Program, 23rd Annual Fiesta De La Luna, Sept. 25-29, 1957, in McAllister box 3.)

1958/06/19 - 4th annual Aquacade opens tonight at Municipal pool, staged by the CofC, new special lighting this year (Chula Vista Star-News, June 19, 1958.)

1960/07/28 - annual Christmas in July Aquafiesta will be at the municipal pool this weekend (Chula Vista Star-News, July 28, 1960.)

