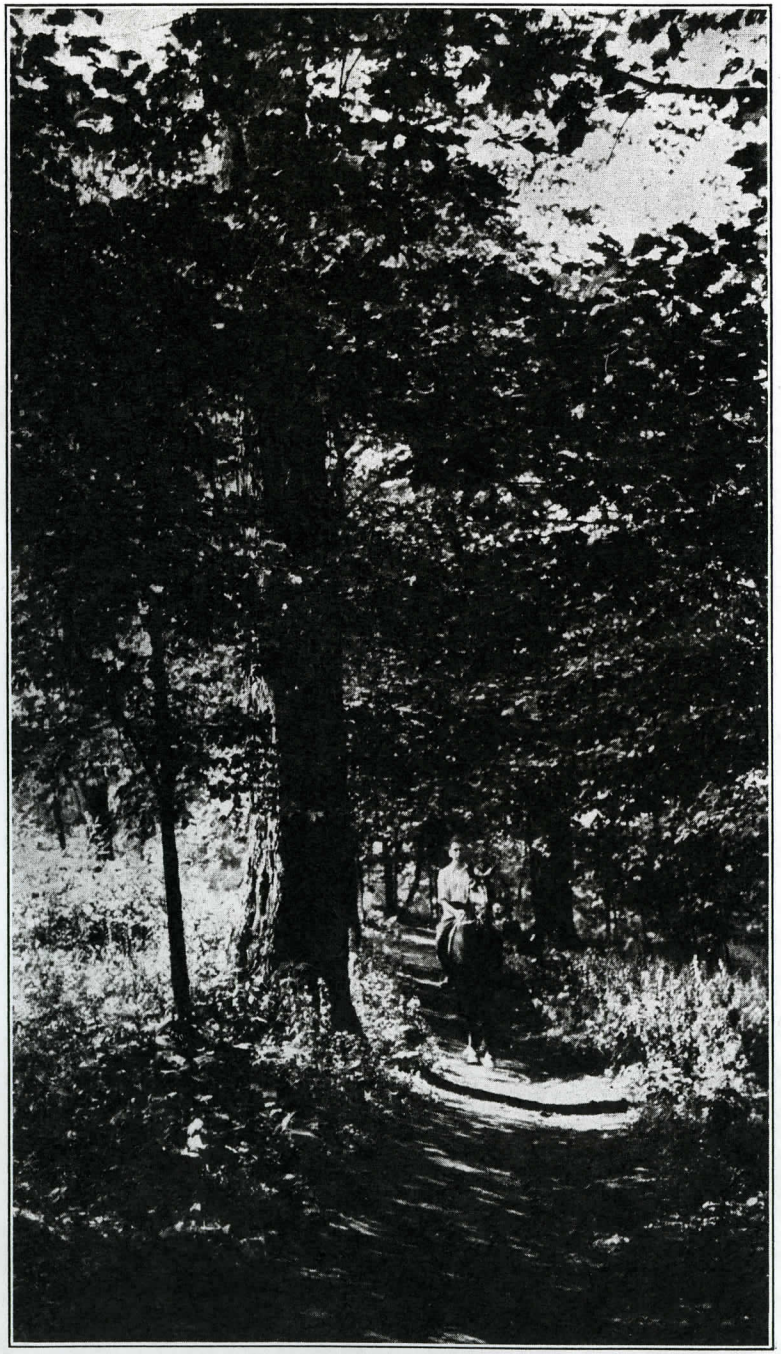


The Woodland Trail in South Park

During these hard times of unemployment and industrial depression, people need additional recreational facilities. With that in mind, successful efforts were made to stimulate and promote active forms of recreation. An ever-increasing desire for various forms of physical activity, necessitated that provision be made for more recreational opportunities for the public—directly under supervisors, responsible for their development.

The appreciation of the public is partially shown by entries and attendance at the different activities that have been promoted. Still better recreational results may be obtained in the County Parks by developing and providing a well-balanced program during the entire year.

Due to the demand for use of tennis courts, a system was installed whereby all players were required to sign for the use of courts and await their turn. Forty-five minutes were allowed each player. This assured all coming to the Parks an opportunity to play a few sets. No record was kept of the players using the grass courts. During the busy season, when a check was kept of the clay courts, 13,905 individuals signed for the allotted period.

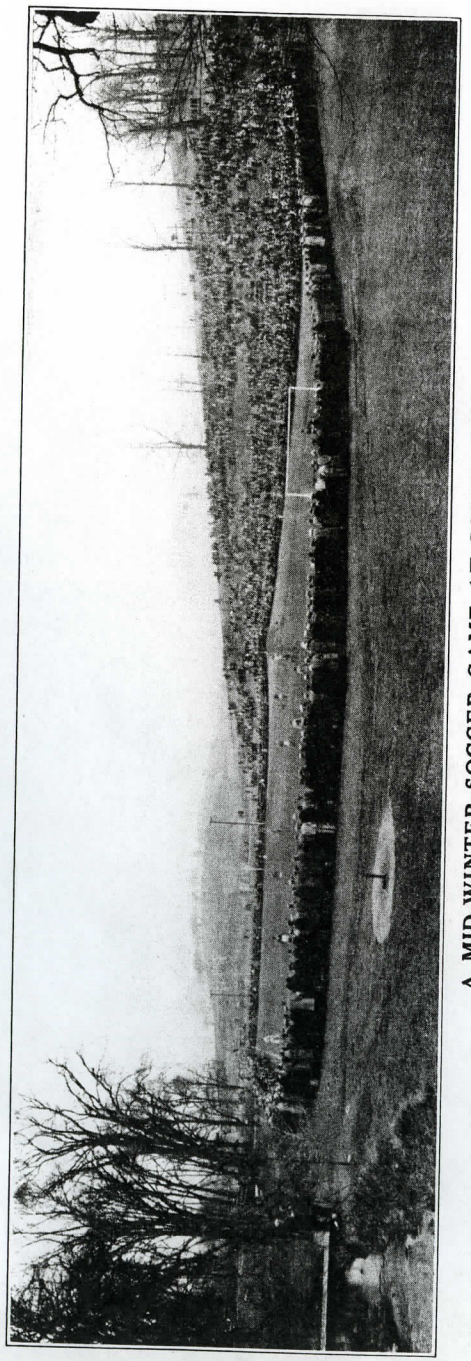
One tennis match was held—Singles for men and women. Mrs. Jean Artzberger, who represented this district at the National Playground Tournament in Detroit, won the ladies' tournament. Thirty-two ladies participated in the tourney. Henry Ackerman, Harvard Cup winner, battled his way through a long list of 157 entries to win the men's event. Entries were received from 23 clubs in Allegheny County.

Public sentiment has gradually been educated to the wisdom of directing the energies of youth into healthful channels. Upon the strength of the realization of this vision, a temporary football field was staked out at Edgebrook in South Park. Elizabeth and Bethel High Schools met in their annual rugby game to initiate the season. Elizabeth High School Band furnished the music for the day.

Two rugby games and 29 soccer games have been played on the field. The field has been used extensively for practice by Bethel High, Elizabeth High, Stewart School, Brentwood, Curry (four teams), Homestead, Gallatin, Morgan, Bridgeville, Houston, Cecil, Horning, Shannon (three teams), Clifton, Heidelberg, F. W. Scotts, and others.

The attendance at all games has proven that the installation of the field was a move in the right direction, since the game is played throughout the winter, and to date, with 21,475 people witnessing these games. A paragraph from the Press says: "Seven thousand fans witnessed a sensational finish to the stirring National Amateur Cup replay in South Park." The Sun-Telegraph says: "It was the largest crowd of the season at South Park venue, and the playing field was in excellent shape." We appreciate the sport writers' views and feel confident that with a permanent field, suitable parking, seating and playing facilities, the attendance will grow in volume.

The interest shown in this form of recreation, both by player and the public, encourage me to suggest a permanent field of standard size and appointment, offering improved advantages over those now found at Edgebrook. Such a field may be constructed as a partial bowl, enclosed on three sides by an embankment rising fifteen feet



A MID-WINTER SOCCER GAME AT SOUTH PARK
The Coldest Weather Seems Not to Cool the Ardor of Soccer Fans

above the grass play area, and in connection, with an adjacent full-sized ball diamond, a battery of eight all-weather tennis courts, a bowling green, basketball courts and perhaps modest quarters for dressing and showers. This accommodation is possible in an area west of Spreading Oak, which, at the present time, is not used for any other purpose. This field should give considerable impetus to the sport and the construction of further recreational facilities.

Some of the outstanding games played to date:

International All-Star Game—Christmas Day

Three West Penn Cup—Third Round Games

Two National Amateur—Third Round Games

Seven Keystone League Games.

Some of the outstanding games to be played that should swell the attendance are:

West Pen Cup Semi-Final—Morrys vs. Morgan

West Penn Cup Final—Between Union Switch & Signal and winner of Morrys vs. Morgan game

National Amateur—Fifth Round, between Akron, Ohio Goodyear and Castle Shannon

Two Junior Semi-final West Penn Games

Junior Final West Penn Cup Championship

Cleveland, Ohio Slavs vs. Curry

Youngstown, Ohio vs. Shannon Juniors.

In keeping with the policy of former years, twelve band concerts were given in South Park and ten in North Park. A perusal of the attendance sheet at these concerts is given elsewhere in this report.

Special music was furnished at the opening of the pool and later at the swimming meet.

Hallowe'en dances were, also, given at each Park; apparently a popular feature of entertainment.

The volley ball court, built at Edgebrook, was used regularly by various Business Men's clubs from Allegheny County.

The Swimming Pool at Sullis Grove, used at various times by the people attending colored picnics in the Park, was appreciated by committees in charge.

The next event on the sport calendar will be the annual marble tourney. Over three thousand boys will decide—via the elimination route, who will be the two district winners to compete in the finals. The winner of the district finals meets the other sectional champions at Atlantic City for the National Championship.

Five grass tennis courts have been opened for public use in North Park, where six additional horseshoe courts, also, were built.

Only two days of tobogganing were had in 1931 in either Park, as little snow fell. Instead, skaters enjoyed an unusually long skating season at the South Park Swimming Pool, lasting from Thanksgiving until the end of February.



Rock Stratifications Are Always of Interest in the Landscape. Here They Have Been Combined to Form a Camp Oven, Complete With Shelves and Seating Arrangements, and Simulated Outcroppings

GROVES

The new groves in North Park: Devils Elbow, Pine Ridge, Cherry Tree, Deer Browse, Dripping Springs, Hemlock and Tupelo Clearing have been patronized considerably; lack of water alone preventing a still greater use. This, however, can be supplied to some of these groves when mains have been laid from the Wildwood Well.

Fireplaces and toilet facilities have been placed for the more primitive needs and an Oven Shelter is under construction at Cherry Tree. Tentative plans, now being studied for the new observation tower and water tank located nearby, embody shelter and toilet facilities.

With the purchase of the Sample Property in 1930, a delightful grove of evergreens, the "Hemlocks"—a fine native stand of second growth conifers—came into possession of the County. A large frame dwelling, a brick house, large barn and dance hall are all located on this tract high above Pine Creek.

These buildings are in various stages of preservation and for the time being, have not been improved. A new floor has been laid in the dance hall, repairs made and electricity installed to fit it for immediate use, thereby relieving congestion at other halls. The frame building in its present condition may be used for shelter, though its potentialities for a broader use later on are readily apparent.

The Hemlocks, unquestionably, will function as North Park's most attractive major playground unit, offering easy access, individuality, isolation from conflicting recreational areas, splendid scenery, a good stream and a topography that will lend itself to the development of playfields. A ball diamond near the creek bank has already been built.

In South Park, Lookout Ridge has been opened up for public use, water, ovens and toilets provided. This area, high up on Ridge Road, at the most southerly point of the Park, has an exceptional view and will be one of the bright spots in the group and will be much in demand in the years to come. It offers exceptional opportunities for unique development, and will lend itself readily to landscape, architecture, and forestry treatment.

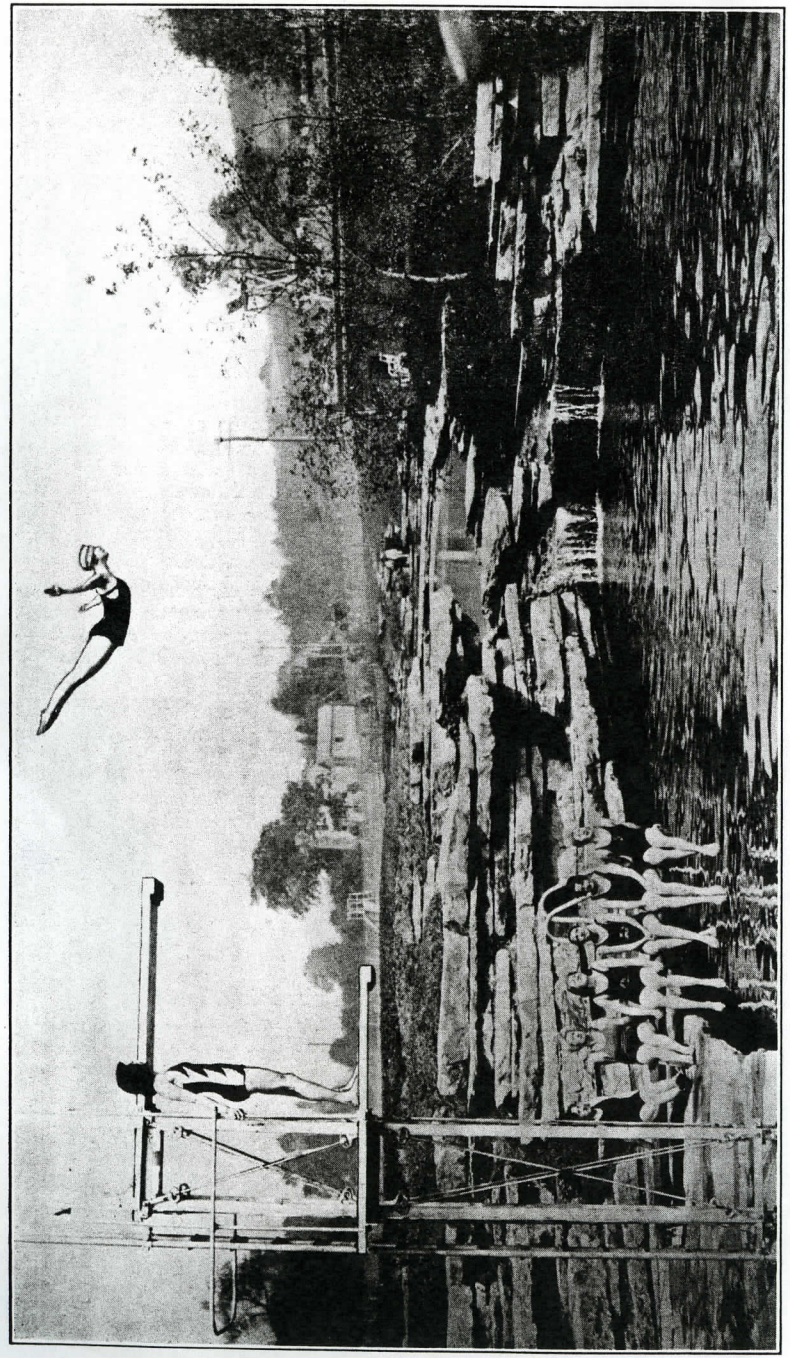
Wooded Gap, just north of Lookout Ridge, has been cleared, toilets and ovens built, and running water installed.

Twin Hills and Ridgewood have been supplied with running water. Valley Heights, (Sulli Grove), has been cleared and improved with primary facilities to make it usable for the public. Running water has been piped to the former resort building.

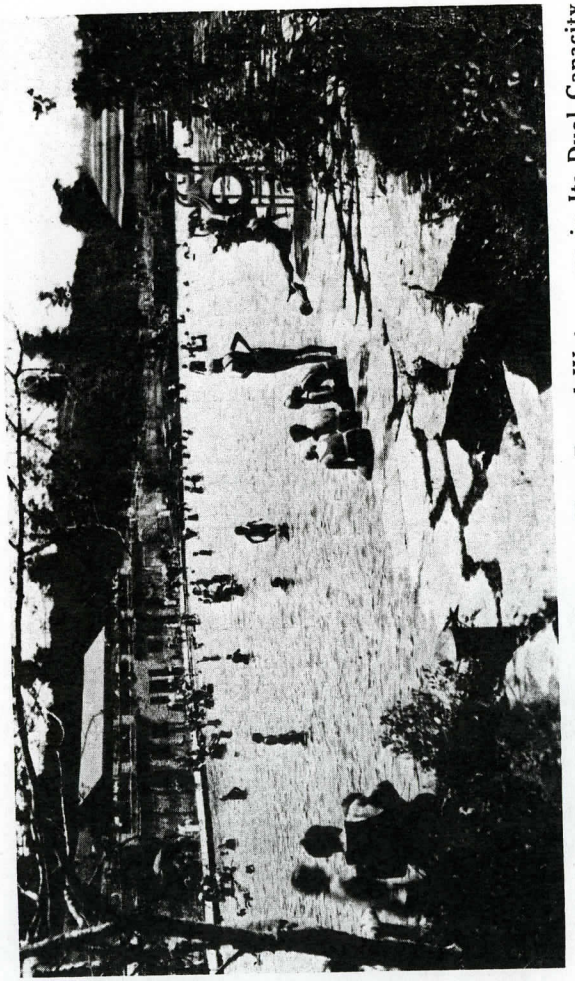
All of the groves have been more or less improved by leveling humps and filling hollows, failed spots and other bare areas reseeded, surface stumps and stones removed, and general conditions improved for human use. The maintenance has been a little more intense, in keeping with the greater use made of the groves.

SWIMMING POOLS

The pool at South Park was officially opened July 2nd, with elaborate ceremonies. The late Chairman of your Honorable Board, Joseph G. Armstrong, in a happy vein, dedicated the pool to the



The Old "Swimming Hole" Idealized to Present Day Needs



The South Park Swimming Pool and a Year-Round Waterscape in Its Dual Capacity Is Not an Idle Dream

people of Allegheny County with the words: "It's your pool, now enjoy it." Short talks were given by Commissioner Babcock, other officials and friends. Representatives from 125 Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade and boroughs, also, town officials, were present. Swimming teams from the Willows and the Homestead Library, kindly gave exhibitions in diving and swimming. At a given signal, 4,000 bathers took possession, in one grand splash.

From the outset of opening this pool, the popularity of a freer use of bathing facilities offered here, were apparent, as evidenced by the consistent attendance of bathers. The past bathing season has demonstrated the practical and satisfactory disposition, size and depth of the various pools, namely, wading, shallow and deep pools, all amply tested to their utmost by the throngs of bathers. Its scenic quality, too, proved irresistable. Every one who has seen the use made of shelving ledges and diving cliffs by the bathers is impressed with the human use values found therein.

The charge of ten cents, as set by your Board for all those over ten years of age who were admitted to the pool, has worked no hardship on the people, the pool being tested to its capacity on several occasions. The greatest attendance for any one day aggregated nearly fifteen thousand people. Paid admissions to the pool record 187,733, exclusive of children, which would easily swell this total to a quarter million people.

The checking facilities and bathhouse were thoroughly tested and the experience, after a season's use, suggested certain improvements to be made in 1932, that would iron out small or minor objections. The pool has met every demand made upon it and lived up to the fondest expectations.

It is particularly encouraging to know that not a single accident occurred in any of the pools, aside from lesser cuts and abrasions.

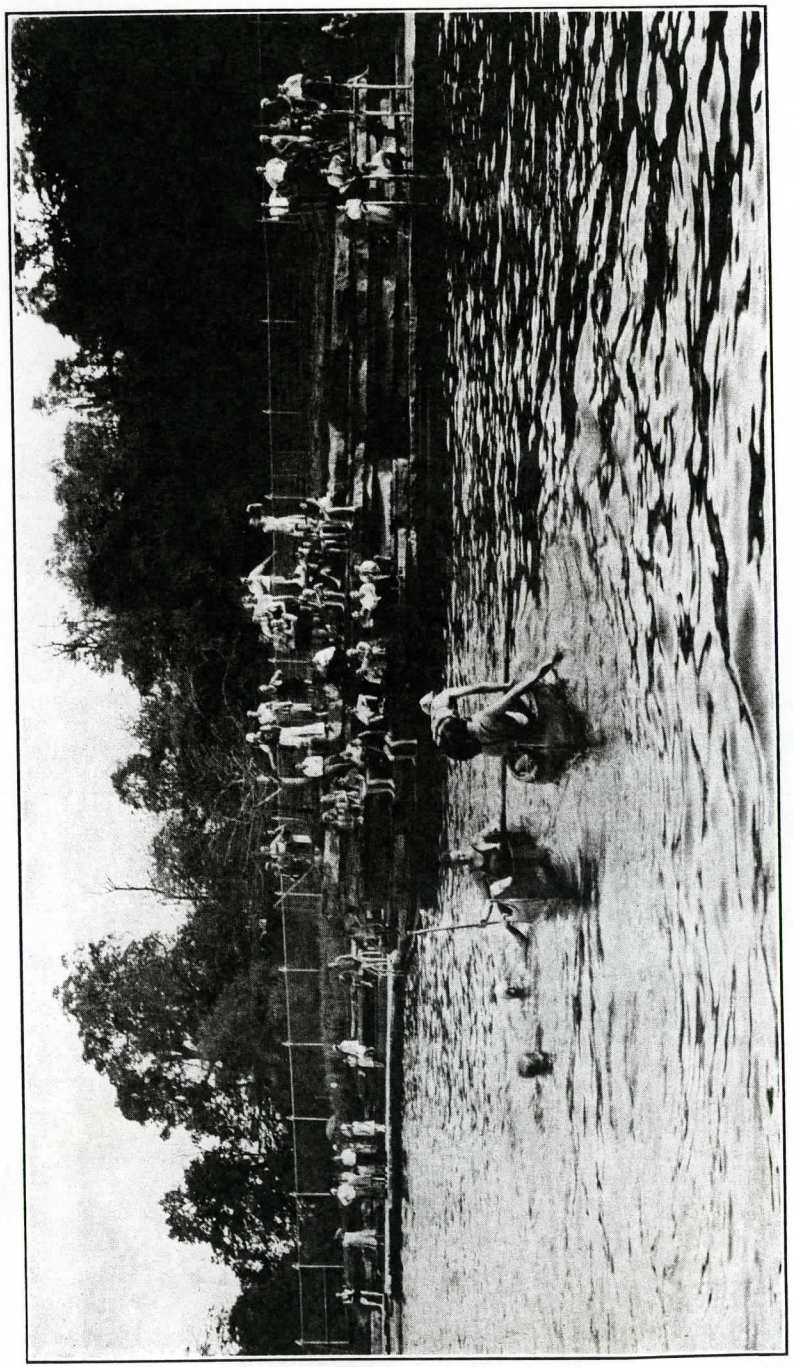
The water has been kept in sanitary condition, and, according to statements of Professor Charles King, University of Pittsburgh, who took regular samples and conducted bacteriological tests, was at all times above the requirements of the State Board of Health.

The bathing beach of one-half acre, tested to its full capacity, proved a delightful and practical adjunct to the pools.

One swimming meet was held, September 5th. Six records were broken and officially accepted by the Amateur Athletic Union Board.

There were entries from the Homestead Library; H. W. Oliver Club; Uniontown; Downtown "Y"; Pittsburgh Athletic Association; Olean, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Y. M. & W. H. A.; Kennywood; Willows and others.

Westinghouse Air Brake Band furnished music for the two hour program of events. Beautiful medals and cups, emblematic of the various championships were awarded. There were ten swimming events for men and women; diving from a fifteen foot board, and canoe tilting.



Canoe Tilting

William S. Haddock, President, and John T. Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer, Allegheny Mountain Association Amateur Athletic Union, ably and efficiently supervised the meet and made all awards. Dr. H. A. Heise of Uniontown, Pa., Byron King, P. J. Corr, Henry Blum, R. V. Shinton, Ben Bright, and J. J. Shannon, each prominently identified with local aquatic sports, gave freely of their time and services, insuring the success that caused local authorities and sport writers to pronounce it the outstanding swimming meet of the season in Pennsylvania. This committee expressed its pleasure and appreciation for the quality of the trophy awards made.

I, herewith, wish to express publicly my grateful appreciation to these gentlement for their kindly services, splendid co-operation and personal interest, that not only largely contributed to the immediate success of this meet, but, also, insures continuous future success to local aquatic sports in the County Parks.

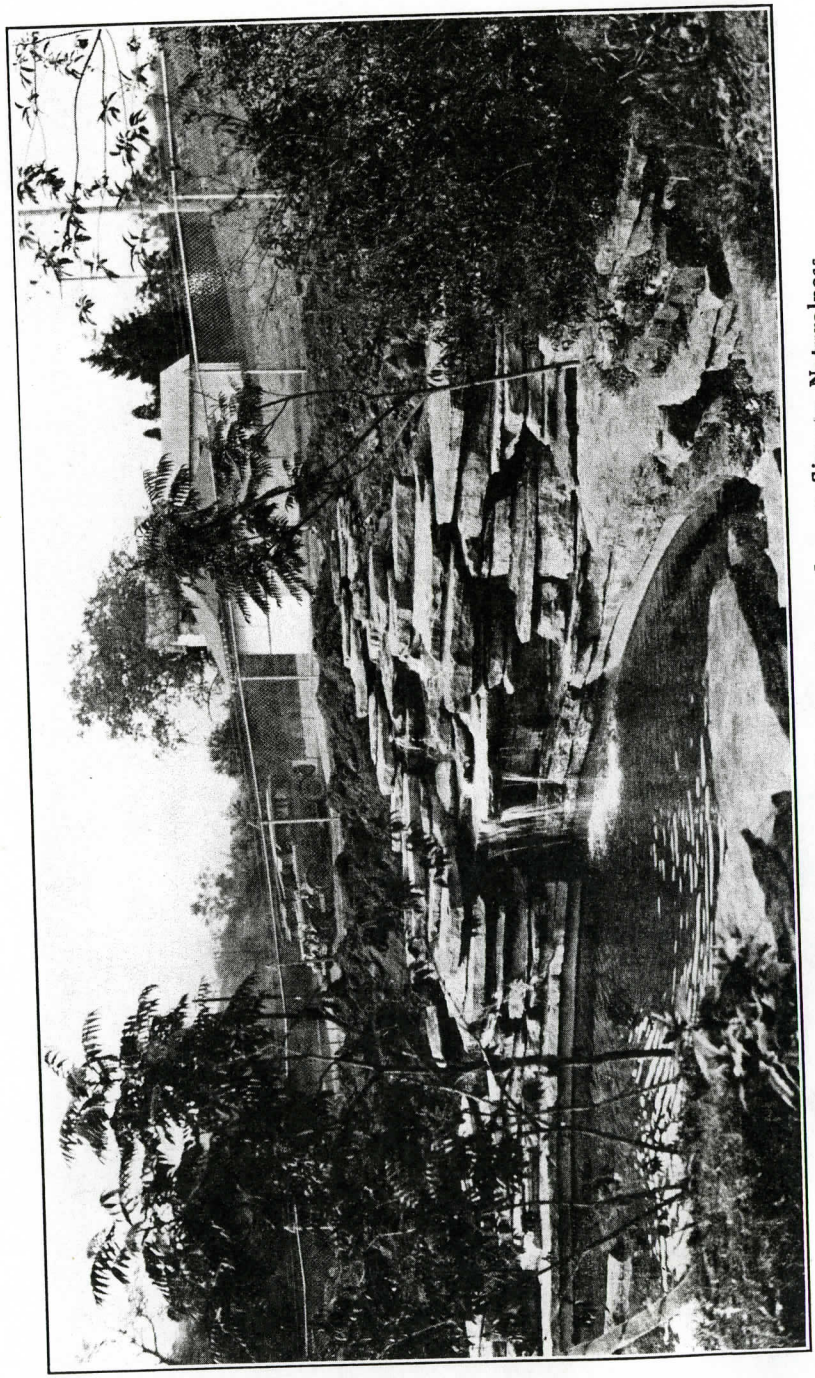
Shortly before the close of the pool, September 21, the Allegheny Mountain Association awarded ten championships to this pool.

A shortage of water was apparent, due to insufficient mains from the South Pittsburgh Water Company. This, however, could be augmented the coming year through other connections to larger mains that have been installed since by above company. This shortage, to some extent, was supplemented by the presence of good quality ground water that under hydrostatic pressure fed into the pools at the rate of 40,000 gallons per day. This pressure had become so great as to raise 50 foot, six inch floor slabs of concrete from the bottom of the deep pool. To prevent further damage and to get the full benefit of the presence of this ground water, a twelve inch well was drilled near the deep pool. The drillers, however, almost immediately struck dolomitic boulders, impervious to water, that reached to a depth below the pressure point, actually keeping the water from reaching the well. The well was abandoned at once and a new location chosen near the filter house. A similar well was drilled here to a depth of 125 feet, producing 110 gallons per minute.

Shortly after, this well appeared to recede considerably and pumping tests revealed a capacity of but 385 gallons per hour, an amount insufficient, considering that it is necessary to supply from sixty to eighty thousand gallons of water a day to replenish loss through splash, evaporation and other causes.

Hydrostatic pressure may occur where the natural channels of springs and ground water have been cut off and obstructed, thus gradually raising the normal water table in the ground. Or, concrete floor buildings and swimming pool basins may be set below the water table in the ground. The resultant pressure of this body on the water equals the pressure of the water exerted in return upon the body. Hence, the great damage that often results. After finding new channels, the water may recede in a natural way, as was the case here. Since the Pittsburgh Coal Company, 166 feet below, encountered no unusual water conditions in their workings during that period of subsidence, above theory seems supported.

To obtain an adequate water supply from a driven well, to serve the needs of the pool, it becomes necessary to drill to the Morgantown sandstone at a depth of 185 to 200 feet below the Pittsburgh Coal and through this to the Saltsburg horizons at 345 to 372 feet below



Filtered Water Recirculates Over Cascades to Impart Sincere Naturalness

Pittsburgh Coal, approximately 600 feet down. More than 100 gallons per minute could not be expected from this source and its quality, too, might be salty. Since a portion of the second well, near the filter house, would be exposed in the entries of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, 166 feet from the surface, this well, also had to be abandoned.

There are two ways of obtaining sufficient water supply, one of locating a well at the end of the filter house, drilled through the coal reserve owned by the County, tapping both the Morgantown and Saltsburg horizons, or by laying an eight inch main connecting with the twelve inch supply line of the South Pittsburgh Water Company on Library Road, 4200 feet away. Studies are being made of the entire situation, as to costs and practicability, with the view of solving the water problem of the Swimming Pool for seasons to come.

Three cascades feeding the pools have been completed, each a fine example of stratified, waterworn ledges, that give living realism to the rocks and cliffs surrounding the pools.

Trails and walks, incomplete in 1930, have been added for a freer circulation surrounding the pool. About two-thirds of the shrubs and trees necessary to give the pool a proper setting have been planted, the balance to be completed in early spring.

Bleachers in the shape of receding ledges, well grouped, have been constructed for spectators at the deep pool.

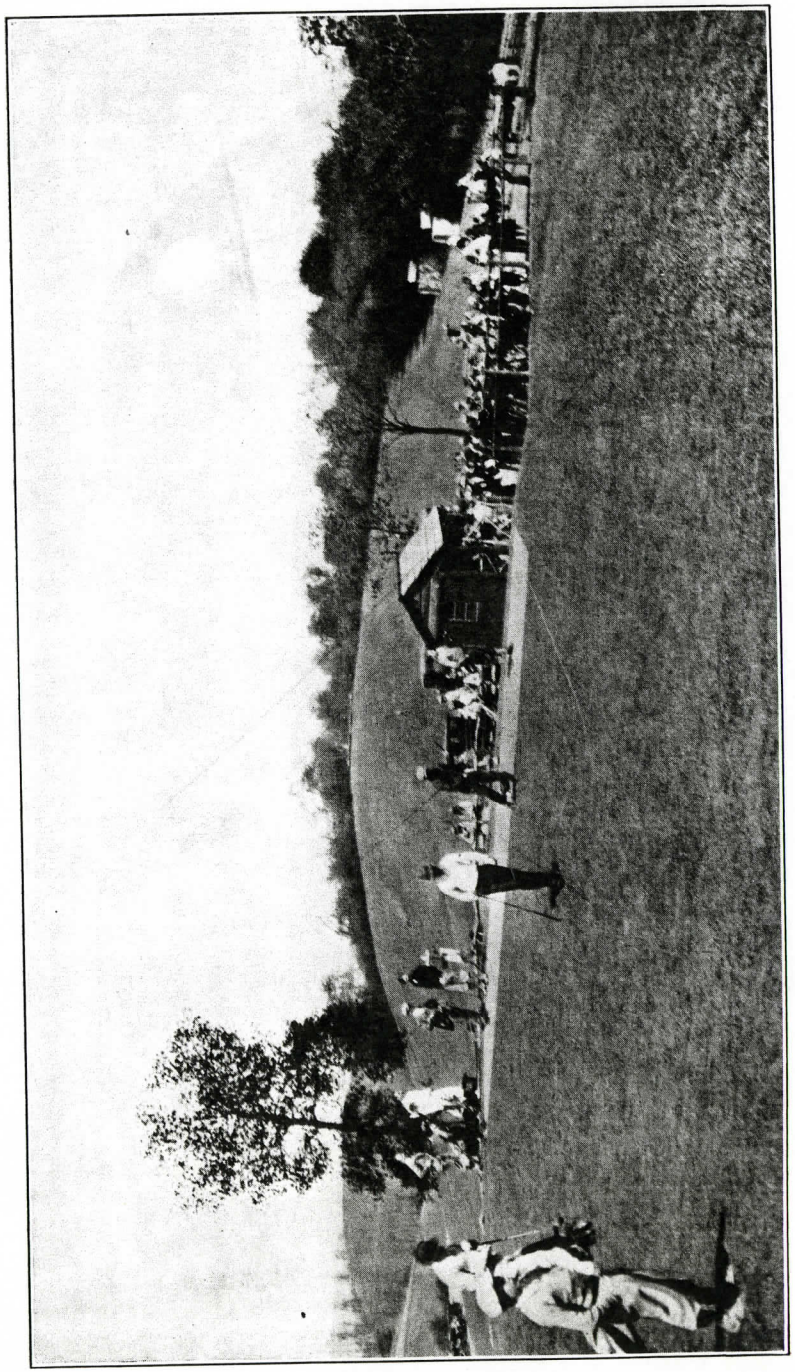
A concrete septic tank, 32 ft. x 17 ft. x 10 ft., serves the sanitation of the bathhouse, and is connected therewith with 500 feet of six inch sewer tile, most of it cut through solid rock with a five foot cover. A disposal field of 3,000 lineal feet of four inch drain tile has been built by the Park force, and apparently is well able to care for the sanitary needs of the bathhouse.

GOLF COURSES

In order to provide clubhouse facilities, your Honorable Board sanctioned the remodeling of the Ross Hill House, a brick structure, located at Spreading Oak near No. 17 Tee, South Park. This building was converted into a temporary clubhouse with 294 lockers for men and women, and toilet and shower facilities, at a cost of $7,500.00. This location offered better advantages for the time being, because of the location of the Refreshment Shelter within this group; solving the problem of light lunches, refreshments, and extended comfort and shelter, also, unlimited parking space.

This arrangement, however, necessitated changing the sequence of the original golf layout, thus No. 17 Tee became No. 1, until such time that a clubhouse can be built near the site of the original No. 1 Tee. No hardships were encountered because of this.

The South Park Golf Course was thrown open for the season, May 15th; the late Chairman of the County Commissioners, Joseph G. Armstrong, making the dedication. Commissioners E. V. Babcock and Charles C. McGovern, also, extended a hearty welcome; each expressing gratification to place at the disposal of the people a major



No. 1 Tee at South Park