

# Is Your Pool a Problem?

Then read how many 'swimming pool headaches' can be eliminated by applying a satisfactory finish

By LESLIE CARSON

**F**EW country club management problems have given more grief, caused more trouble and developed more dissatisfaction than the painting of the swimming pool. In many cases failure after failure has created such a skeptical attitude with many managers that they have come to the conclusion it is not yet possible to successfully finish a swimming pool.

Fortunately their conclusion is wrong for there has been developed a new type of synthetic resin entirely different from those ordinarily used in paint manufacture which has made it possible to produce a finish possessing all the desirable requirements of a successful swimming pool paint.

Knowing that a satisfactory finish can be had, it would be well to discuss the advantages of painting a pool as compared with the disadvantages of permitting it to remain unpainted, and to talk briefly about the types of materials which are likely to give disappointing results if used.

Unpainted concrete, because of the nature of its composition, is porous on the surface. Microscopically the surface area is rough and ragged. These cavities are naturally protected breeding caches for algae spores and other microscopic organisms which occur in swimming pool water. Algae then has a decided tendency to affix itself and grow. Bacteria lodges in these beds and health standards

are lowered. Then, too, the nature of the surface protecting the spores makes their removal difficult. Contrast this condition with a surface coated with a satisfactory swimming pool finish that fills up the cavities, smooths over the rough edges and leaves a tile-like film to which algae spores do not bond or affix themselves. The result is either complete elimination or a great retardation of the algae condition with a resultant higher standard of pool sanitation.

Because of the pitty nature of concrete, cleaning is difficult, if it has not been coated. Removal of dirt, grit and foreign material is not an easy job and when the surface is rough and irregular the difficulty becomes more acute. So here, too, the tile-like surface of a successful paint comes into full play with labor saving economies.

Wet concrete is a drab yellowish gray in color. It is really an ugly color that detracts from the appearance of a pool. Add color and you style a pool. Available shades provide a sparkling clearness to the water which invites and encourages more bathers. It's rather difficult to picture the tremendous contrast of a pool painted with a light blue or sea green, modern in color styling and attractiveness, with the unpainted one of drab yellowish gray. A swimming pool has only water to merchandise. Improve the appearance of the water and more bathers are attracted.

Economy is always an important con-

This attractive pool at Meadowbrook CC, St. Louis district, is one of many finished with a synthetic resin swimming pool paint.



One of the most attractive membership sales promotion booklets issued to describe a country club's facilities, is that recently published by the Tam O'Shanter CC (Chicago district). Club presidents desirous of getting a copy of the book should write W. A. Weismann, sec., room 620—156 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

sideration. In a fill and draw type pool the labor of cleaning can be reduced to at least one-fourth of the original time. In a recirculating type where a vacuum cleaner is used, the same figure prevails. In both types far less expense for the purchase of (blue vitrol), to control and kill algae, and for other chemicals used in pool sanitation, results. In one instance the season's purchases of blue vitrol were reduced from 225 to 15 lbs., and at the same time samples taken from the water showed less bacteria count.

#### Cold Water Paints Not Satisfactory

For a great many years various types of cold water paints have been used on swimming pools. In a few instances they have given fair results but as a whole dissatisfaction among users has generally been the case. The cost of these finishes is low as compared with that of a really successful paint, which may be given as the reason for their use. Generally speaking, cold water paints produce a rough and porous surface in which the same objectionable difficulties are inherent as with bare concrete. Because of the rough nature of the finish it is hard to clean. Algae accumulates and grows on it readily. Many will gradually chalk off during a single season, clouding the water and necessitating repeat applications.

Oil and varnish base paints have always proved inadequate. Their principal failure is adhesion. Peeling, checking, cracking and scaling, with the accompanying unsightly appearance, usually occurs. These type finishes are not entirely insoluble in water and have a tendency to soften. It is always necessary to completely remove all traces of an oil or varnish base paint from the surface before attempting the application of a specialized pool paint.

Since most pools have at some time in the past been coated with finishes of various types, serious consideration is necessary to the correct preparation of the surface before the application of a specialized pool paint. It is correctly stated that regardless of the quality of a paint

and its particular adaptability to a given surface, there are three factors required to complete a fully satisfactory job. First, the surface must be prepared as directed by the manufacturer. Second, the person applying the material must use ordinary common sense in brushing out the product instead of piling up enough paint for three or four coats. And third, a specific paint for a specific surface should always be used. One will very seldom go wrong when following exactly the directions of a reputable manufacturer.

Lily and fish ponds, concrete and rock gardens, as well as locker and shower rooms, where complete immersion in water or excessive moisture conditions are prevalent, require the same consideration when painted as swimming pools. They too, can now be successfully coated without the usual scaling, chipping and other characteristic failures which have occurred in the past.

A most informative booklet entitled "An Authoritative Study of the Swimming Pool Painting Problem" has been compiled by The Phelan-Faust Paint Co., St. Louis, Mo., whose Hydroflex is widely used as a swimming pool finish. They will be glad to send their booklet upon request, as well as to answer specific questions on the subject.

### Empire Day Tourney to Help Embattled Britons

**G**OLFERS at clubs all over the country will participate this month in the Empire Day tournament for the Maple Leaf Fund. The entry fee of \$1 goes into the Maple Leaf Fund to furnish medical aid and relief to the bombed areas of Britain.

The tournament will be played by men on Saturday, May 24, and by women on May 23. Prizes are six medals for men and three for women at each participating club.

National and regional golf associations have enthusiastically approved the tournament and are engaged in lining up clubs for extensive participation. Public and fee courses are invited to share this activity with private clubs and give the hand of sportsmanship to a people who are doing a swell job of keeping their civilized chins up.

Full details of the Maple Leaf Fund event may be secured from Theodore I. Merseles of the New York State Golf Assn., at the office of The Maple Leaf Fund, 601 Fifth Ave., New York.