

From San Jose Mercury News, Contra Costa Times 5/13/11

RIO VISTA -- Hank Simonsen first got involved with the city's pool in 1999 when his grandson Ty Mortimore joined the Sharks swim team. Simonsen soon found out that plaster was coming off the sides and the pool had problems with its pumping mechanism.

The city-owned pool opened in the 1950s, and Rio Vista had to defer maintenance several times. As a result, the Rio Vista High School team had to practice in the backyard pool of its coach when the city pool was closed.

Simonsen died six years ago. But his \$150,000 donation and work with the Rio Vista Foundation helped start a project to replace the pool. The fruit of his labor is a new, eight-lane facility that opened in March.

"The plaster was falling off, and they were having major problems," said Sue Mortimore, Simonsen's daughter and Ty's mother. "He made a donation, and there was some money in the Rio Vista Foundation."

Said Bob Bard of the Rio Vista Foundation: "He was well aware of the swimming pool condition and that the pool was closing down all the time. Everything was breaking down."

On Sunday, the Simonsen Delta Swim Center on California Street will be dedicated during a 1 p.m. ceremony. Ty has graduated from the Sharks, but Simonsen's granddaughter Casie is among the beneficiaries. She's a member of the Sharks and, according to Sue Mortimore, is closing in on a team record in the 100-yard freestyle.

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The process took a long time, but the result is worth it. The demolition of the old pool began in 2009, and, because of weather delays, it took a little more than a year to construct the new one. The final cost was about \$1.2 million, all raised from private donors.

"It blows my mind that it was done by donations in this community," Mortimore said. "You could just see the kids' eyes light up when they get in that pool."

Mortimore, who also serves on the foundation, said many people deserve credit for continuing what her father started.

The foundation was created for other purposes about 40 years ago, according to Bard, and had been dormant. Simonsen got it back up and running.

Fundraisers were organized, and Bard remembered an instance of having to choose between two ideas.

"A camel race or duckie derby," he said. "I investigated both possibilities. The camel race wouldn't work. I talked to people in other cities who were having duckie derbies. They let us borrow their duckies. We raised \$17,000 out of that event."

The weekend will be a celebration of the new pool, with the Sharks hosting the annual Rotary Pentathlon on Saturday. The event serves as a major fundraiser for the Sharks and draws teams from around the area.

Schindler said it's more of a fun meet, although it is competitive.

"You do all the same strokes, but it's not points for our league," he said.

Mortimore said she is looking forward to both events this weekend, saying "I would not miss this for the world."