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Members of the Katikati Swimming Pool Project Committee are seen here at the inaugural meeting last night. Seated, from left, are Messrs A. Elliot, C. Taylor, V. Woodward, C. A. Moore, chairman of the Tauranga County Council, D. Hume, the committee chairman and Katikati town riding member on the county council, and E. T. Jordan. Sitting with their backs to the camera are Mesdames M. Boyes (left) and R. Smith, the committee secretary.

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# Community effort has pool under way

An outstanding community service was performed by Katikati men when the hole for the new Katikati Swimming Bath was dug with machines lent free of charge and by drivers who worked for very long hours for no reward.

Metal Haulage Ltd lent a large excavating machine, and Taylor Brothers and Jeffcoat and Howes lent two smaller machines. Taylor Brothers provided trucks to take away spoil which had to be removed from the site and the chairman of the Swimming Bath Committee, Mr D. R. Hume, lent his tractor, which he drove himself.

Work began at 7 a.m. and continued throughout the day and into the night. When the machines finally stopped work at 8 p.m. the hole was virtually completed except for the ramp which gave the machinery access to the excavation.

The drivers worked non-stop. When one got off a machine for a meal break another driver got on so that progress was continu-

ous.

Mr Hume had approached members of the nearby Gospel Hall and asked if they would like the machines stopped during church services, but Mr R. T. Harvey said he considered that the work should go on despite any inconvenience it might cause.

Those who drove machines for long hours during that sunny Sunday, and on into the moonlit night were Messrs Allan Howes, Kevin and Garry Taylor, Ian and Bill Penwarden and Frank Bethell. Messrs Wayne Gedye and Kevin Samson drove trucks which took the spoil away.

The Tauranga County Council have given considerable and valuable assistance to the project, said Mr Hume. As well as making the land available and mak-

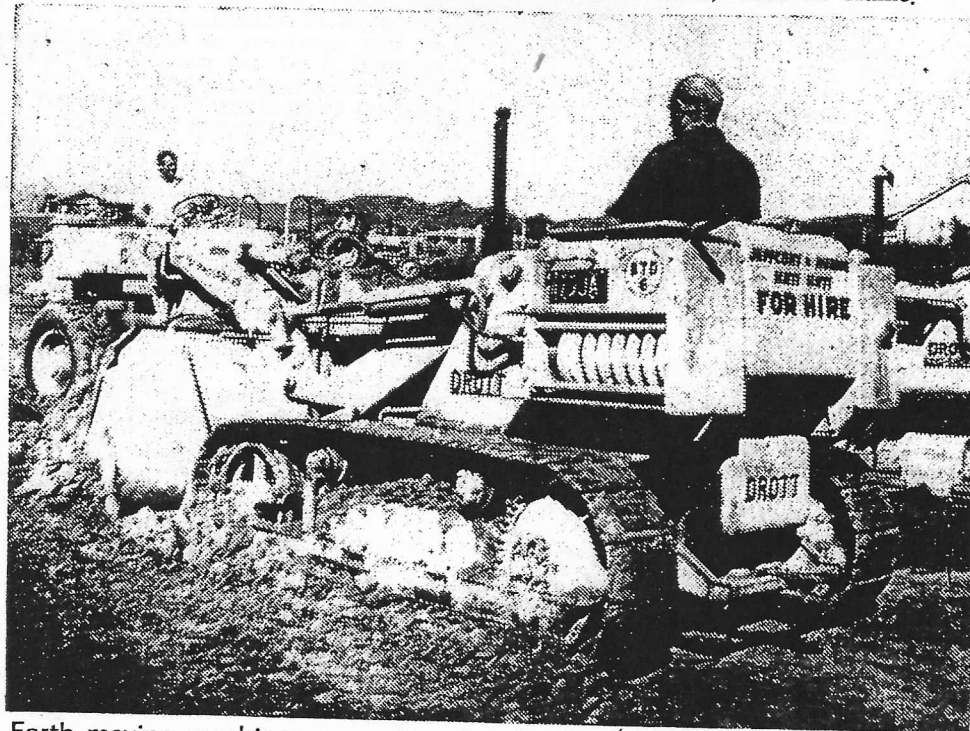
ing a grant toward the cost of constructing the bath their officers had assisted in planning and their machinery and men installed the main drain from the bath site.

Construction of the concrete pool was to have begun last week but bad weather delayed the contractors, who are now working on the site.

"The project is at last under way, and I am very pleased at the way it is progressing," said Mr D. R. Hume, who spent many hours planning the details and also on his farm tractor down on the bath site getting the levels ready and tidying up the hole.

The contractors established the levels before excavation could begin and Messrs D. J. and R. E. Baker donated the considerable amount of timber necessary for this job.

"If we get as much co-operation from local residents right throughout the project as we have from those who have helped us up till now our children will be swimming in the bath in the very near future," said Mr Hume.



Earth moving machines excavating for the Katikati swimming pool. Many Katikati people provided labour and machinery free of charge for this important stage of the project.

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# Mr Kirk's visit friendly, informal

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*Dave Hume Pool*

Friendly informality, meetings with old friends, and many reminiscences shared marked the Prime Minister, Mr Kirk's visit to Katikati on Saturday to officially open the Dave Hume Pool.

In an address punctuated with anecdotes relating to such small town matters as the doings of the publican of the time, and the difficulties of detecting cress flavour in milk, Mr Kirk did not look beyond the bounds of Katikati when opening the swimming pool.

He recalled his first arrival in Katikati in 1943 to work as engineer at the dairy factory.

## ★ ★ ★ Tributes paid Mr Hume

Mr D. R. Hume received many tributes at the official opening of the Dave Hume Pool in Katikati on Saturday.

Mr Kirk said he had heard in Wellington of the great efforts of Dave Hume in gathering his flock together to work on the project, and in organising them to complete it.

The project had cost \$26,000 but an asset worth considerably more than \$50,000 had been created by the enormous investment in time and labour given by the people of Katikati, said Mr Kirk.

### OTHER SPEAKERS

Other speakers at the opening were Mr A. G. Spratt, the Tauranga County Council chairman, Mr Hume, Nigel Pettigrew, the head prefect of the Katikati College, and Mr L. A. Lorrigan, the chairman of the South Auckland Education Board.

The assistant county clerk, Mr L. L. Bailey, introduced the speakers to the crowd of several hundred people.

After Mr Kirk had named the pool and declared it open, he uncovered a plaque.

Following this, 13 Katikati Primary School pupils swam a length of the pool.

During afternoon tea large numbers of children thronged the pool.

"There have been many changes in Katikati. There are no big stones on Beach Road now as there were when we first arrived in Katikati, and walked from the railway station to the end of the road (a distance of about three miles), where we were received with great kindness by the late Mr and Mrs George Leech."

## Met family

Later on Saturday Mr Kirk met members of the Leech family — who are related to him through his mother — as well as many other old friends.

"Katikati was not a centre of radical thought. The people could be described as conservative, Protestant and fond of cows udders," Mr Kirk said at the pool opening.

"But they were friendly. We have the warmest memories of the friendship we received and the friends we made in Katikati."

He said the first person he recognised as he walked into the swimming pool enclosure was Dr J. Burstein, "who officiated at the launching of two Kirks at the Katikati Hospital."

## 'Typical'

"The work of the good doctor typifies the nature of the people of Katikati — always solid, always well intentioned, and always doing what they could in the contingencies which life brings along."

In a gentle reprimand over reports of divisions in the

district as to the wisdom of inviting him to open the pool, he said: "Even if you don't support me you were certainly responsible for helping to make me Prime Minister of New Zealand."

"When I worked in the district I learned something of the way in which New Zealand people toil and work to improve their way of life."

## 'Own money'

He said it was necessary to respect the institutions of Government, and to recognise the importance of the occasion, and the achievement of the people of Katikati who with their own money and mostly with their own effort had built so valuable an asset as the swimming pool.

Mr Kirk said he was delighted to receive the invitation to return to Katikati. He had the warmest memories of the people he had met during his time there, and he was pleased to have the chance to go back to the district which had grown

and expanded over the years. It was a great thrill to him to return to the town in his official capacity.

When he went to Katikati to live there was only one piece of tarseal, which stretched from a store, to the post office.

"No-one knew why it stopped there, but perhaps it was because by the time the people had paid their telephone and tax bills there was no more money left."

"Or perhaps it was by special arrangement with Bert Fenn, so that cars he had repaired would be sufficiently far from his garage before they began to rattle on the metalled road."

"To some degree the poor roads of the area retarded progress, and the better roads of today have speeded the whole development of the district."

Mr Hume presented Mr Kirk with a locally made dartboard, from the only dartboard factory in the North Island, and asked that a pottery jug made in Katikati by Mr Guy Mountain be given to Mr Kirk from the people of Katikati.

Mr Hume's youngest daughter, Bronwyn, presented flowers.

## Factory visit

After chatting with many Katikati residents over afternoon tea, Mr Kirk briefly visited the Katikati dairy factory, where he was entertained by the chairman of directors of the Bay of Plenty Dairy Association, Mr A. G. Spratt, and other farming leaders.

He also spent some time at the home of Mr and Mrs C. Best at a gathering arranged by the Labour Party candidate for Coromandel at the past General Election, Mrs Alison Murphy.

He stopped briefly at Aongatete before leaving Katikati in the evening to return to Rotorua for the Polynesian Festival.

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