



Saratoga Resort in 1905. Courtesy of Mick Eastmond.

Saratoga, Utah Lake's Oldest Resort

BY RICHARD S. VAN WAGONER

WISPS OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE SMOKE RISING from the northwest corner of Utah Lake likely first attracted Indians to the site hundreds of years ago. Hot water springs in the vicinity of the mouth of the Jordan River sent plumes of steam skyward—a sight that can still be

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seen on cold winter mornings. Though trappers were probably the first white men to visit the area, a Mormon exploration team led by Apostle Parley P. Pratt spent two days sailing up and down the west shore of the lake in December 1847.¹

The warm springs near Utah Lake were initially a mere curiosity to early pioneers. The first group of Lehi settlers camped approximately two miles northeast on Sulphur Springs, later known as Snow's Spring, which provided suitable drinking water.

In 1854 John Conrad Naile, a German convert to Mormonism and a former member of the Mormon Battalion, arrived in Lehi. First settling on the cold springs west of town across the Jordan River, he purchased the area surrounding the warm springs in 1860 with some of the \$3,000 in gold he had panned in California. Envisioning a cider industry, Naile planted a large apple orchard which he irrigated with water from the springs. When the cider business did not develop as planned, Naile used the land for grazing cattle and horses and for raising flax which was made into coarse cloth and rope.²

In 1862 another German Mormon, twenty-two-year-old John Beck, leased the warm springs property from Naile and raised sheep and manufactured charcoal there. Beck and other German immigrants in his employ frequently bathed in the warm springs and picnicked in the shade of the apple orchard. Visions of a spa, patterned after the famous Saratoga Resort in New York, began to develop in John Beck's mind. In 1884, with some of the fabulous wealth he had accrued from his Bullion-Beck mine in the Tintic district, the entrepreneur bought more than 1,000 acres of land on Utah Lake, including the warm springs area he had been leasing. He named the 27

¹ Parley P. Pratt, *The Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt: One of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. . . . (1874; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1938), p. 402.

² John C. Naile, born in Albersweiler, Bavaria, on September 14, 1825, emigrated in 1833, converted to Mormonism, and arrived in Nauvoo in 1844. Joining the Mormon Battalion, the 6 ft. 4 in. private served in Company A under Capt. Jefferson Hunt. Released from service on March 14, 1848, Naile made his way to Sutter's mill where in six weeks he washed out approximately \$3,000 in gold. He then purchased a 250-acre Spanish grant in San Jose Valley and engaged in farming and truck gardening. In the spring of 1853 he rented out his farm and returned to visit his parents in Indiana. On June 15, 1853, he married his boyhood sweetheart, May Louise Keppel, and with her and his parents moved to the Salt Lake Valley. In 1854 he purchased property that included the cold springs west of Lehi, now owned by Sherwin Alfred, and then in the early 1860s moved south to the warm springs that became the Saratoga resort. Naile purchased land at Black Rock and Yellow Banks in Beaver, Utah, in 1862 and moved his livestock there. In 1866 he was called to take charge of the wine industry and assist in growing cotton in Washington County. In 1872 Naile was called on a mission to Germany and Switzerland. At this time he legally changed his name to Naegle. In 1889 he moved part of his family to Colonia Pacheco in Mexico where he died on September 10, 1899. See Utah County Property Records, Utah County Courthouse, Provo, Ut.; "History of Saratoga Springs" in *North Utah Co. Histories of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers from Lehi, Utah*, comp. Edith B. Jones and Nettie Wrenkaki (n.p., n.d.); Kate B. Carter, ed. *Our Pioneer Heritage*, 20 vols. (Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1958-77), 4:204-6.



John Beck, left, from Whitney's History of Utah, and John C. Naile (or Naegle), right, from Lehi Centennial History.

acres immediately surrounding the springs Beck's Saratoga Springs.³

Little is known of the earliest years of Saratoga's development. The W. F. Butt diary of September 14, 1885, notes that he, Henry Lewis, Franz Salzner, and Peter Loutensock laid the foundation for the boardinghouse at "Beck's Springs."⁴ The October 15, 1885, *Deseret News* reported "brisk business" at the "J. Beck Saratoga farm." The boarding house was nearing completion, 400 acres of new land had been plowed and put into fall grain, and "many other improvements were going on in order to make it attractive next season." By 1890 the resort was well established. A September 14, 1891, advertisement in the *Lehi Banner* noted that for twenty-five cents one could bathe in two large plunge baths and six hot tub baths. The ad further

³John Beck was born at Aichelberg, Wurtemberg, Germany, on March 19, 1843, emigrated in 1861, and arrived in Lehi the following year. After marrying Sarah Beck in 1865, he became interested in the Tintic Mining District. Though he eventually owned the Crown Point, Northern Spy, Governor, and Buckeye properties, his greatest wealth came from the famous Bullion-Beck mine which ultimately paid millions in dividends. Beck was extremely charitable and underwrote virtually hundreds of worthy causes throughout the territory. In 1890 he established his permanent residence in Salt Lake City where he purchased the Hot Springs north of town and converted the property into a sanitarium. He devoted his final years to philanthropic interests and died on April 2, 1913, from blood poisoning after stepping on a nail. See *Deseret Evening News*, April 2, 1913; Orson F. Whitney, *A History of Utah*, 4 vols. (Salt Lake City: George Q. Cannon and Sons Co., 1892-1904), 3:496-98.

⁴W. F. Butt Diary, n.d., n.p., LDS Church Library Archives, Salt Lake City.

claimed that "these springs possess wonderful medicinal properties . . . for rheumatism and disease of the skin . . . a plunge in these health-giving waters will cure 'That Tired Feeling.' "

Visitors to Beck's Hot Springs prior to 1895 followed a circuitous route. Though both the Oregon Short Line and Denver & Rio Grande railroads traversed Lehi, the resort could only be reached by crossing the Jordan River bridge due west of town and then following what is now Redwood Road southward to the resort. Hayrides were a popular conveyance for groups, and at least one local business provided taxi service. "Hurrah for Beck's Saratoga Springs," the September 14, 1893, *Lehi Banner* exclaimed, "the hack will leave the Co-op Livery Stable every Saturday at 7 o'clock p.m. for Beck's warm spring, only fifty cents for the round trip including the bath. For further particulars, see Wm. Wing."

The July 5, 1894, *Lehi Banner* announced that resort manager George Beck had put in a dancing floor and picnic tables in the center of the three-acre apple orchard. The July 26, 1894, *Lehi Banner* listed for the first time:

BECKS HOT SPRINGS RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. No improper character or intoxicated person admitted.
2. No profane or obscene language or boisterous conduct allowed.
3. Splashing or diving in the vicinity of ladies is forbidden.
4. Smoking or eating in dressing rooms or in or about the pools is prohibited.
5. No dressing room can be occupied for a longer time than three-quarters of an hour on Saturdays and Sundays.
6. Soap is not allowed to be used in the plunges.

IF YOU CANNOT OBEY OUR RULES WE DO NOT
WANT YOUR MONEY

Many changes were evident to resort goers in the 1895 season. The most important improvement, the new road and bridge from Lehi, halved traveling time from town. A large plunge was built on the lower springs, and bathhouses were constructed on the sandy beach of the lake shore for those who wished to swim and boat in Utah Lake. The December 26, 1896, *Deseret News* noted that John Beck "has just finished a fine residence at his Saratoga Springs resort." His large two-story adobe home in Lehi, which still stands at 791 North 100 East, had earlier that year been rented to Lehi dentist E. C. Merrihew.³

³ *Lehi Banner*, March 26, 1896. This pioneer home, built by James Wiley Norton, was bought by the George Strasburg family in 1907 (*Lehi Free Press*, September 24, 1953). It is presently the Lloyd Strasburg home.

In the spring of 1897 dramatic changes took place at Saratoga. Retrospectively it seems a risky venture to expose resort goers to the obnoxious odors of a chicken ranch. But in addition to a new 30-by-100-foot indoor plunge and a 100-by-56-foot bathhouse (including office and sitting room), Saratoga management also built a new 156-by-34-foot brick building containing six incubators, each with a capacity of 800 eggs. Nearby were twelve chicken coops, each 14-by-26 feet.⁶ Despite the chicken venture, which failed, the resort attracted many summer visitors. Hayrides still seemed the most popular form of conveyance. A June 29, 1897, *Lehi Banner* noted a Mutual Improvement Association excursion to the resort. This LDS church group was the first to dance in the newly completed pavilion. Lehi's famed Smuin band provided the music for the evening.

Though most resort goers went to Saratoga for recreation, many went for health reasons and stayed days or weeks at a time in the large adobe boarding house or in camp tents. The June 8, 1897, *Lehi Banner* noted that a principal attraction of the place was the thermal spring, "whose waters are claimed to be superior to any other in the state for their medicinal properties." While it was not claimed that the waters could "cure every known disease and alleviate all pain," it was noted that internal and external applications of the water had resulted in many remarkable cures, particularly of "those afflicted with gout and rheumatism." It was left to Professor A. Siebert, a graduate of Heidelberg University in Germany, to commercially bottle Saratoga waters for "internal application." The December 21, 1897, *Lehi Banner* announced that through experimentation Siebert had developed a medicinal preparation he called "Saratoga Salvation." An advertisement for the tonic pronounced:

Saratoga Salvation is the intrinsic value of the wonderful warm springs on the Utah Lake. It possesses an actual and unrivalled power to cure many internal and external diseases. You are not trying an experiment but the astringent elements of the natural warm mineral water. It is well proven in an outward sickness or the consequence of a bad circulation of matter. Nature gives the right regulator and the power of Saratoga springs water is therefore universally well known. Instead of a bed make use of the stringent elements of the water at home which will give much better results. Saratoga Salvation drives out the germs of sickness, recruits the strength of the nerves and makes the body whole and sound.⁷

⁶ *Deseret News*, March 25, 1897.

⁷ *Lehi Banner*, November 3, 1897.



Lehi girls at Saratoga at the turn of the century. Courtesy of Etta Holdsworth.

Though the claims seem bombastic and unscientific, the preparation sold briskly for a time at Lehi's two drugstores which also dispensed such colorful preparations as "Dr. J. H. Medius' Volcanic Oil Lini-ment," and "Dr. J. H. McLean's Liver and Kidney Balms."⁸

John Beck's wealth was won and lost again several times during his career. At the turn of the century he was having financial difficulties and sold Saratoga to the Utah Sugar Company on May 25, 1900. The sugar company, which had established its first factory in Lehi in 1891, used the fertile 1,000-acre Saratoga farm for growing sugar beets. Management of the resort was initially placed in the hands of John Y. Smith, son-in-law of Thomas Cutler, general manager of the Utah Sugar Company. Edward Southwick first supervised the farm, then became manager of the resort in 1901. Southwick's biographer noted "there was always a constant fear of the children falling into the swimming pool or getting bit by snakes. There were [also] the flies and mosquitos to combat."⁹

⁸ *Lehi Banner*, May 30, 1895.

⁹ Elaine Christensen Southwick, *And I Went Home Rejoicing — The Background, Life, and Posterity of Edward Southwick, III* (Provo, Ut.: J. Grant Stevenson, 1971), p. 95.

Though none of Southwick's children drowned in the pools, he was responsible for saving the lives of at least three people who nearly did. During the summer of 1900 Southwick, entering the southwest door of the pool, saw some bubbles coming up near the center of the plunge. Recounting the incident he said, "I jumped in the water and recovered Mrs. [Eliza Broadbent] Fjeld. . . . We revived her, gave her stimulants, and although she was quite sick for some days, she fully recovered."¹⁰ Mell Quigley, a young man working in Wadsworth's Drug Store in Lehi, also nearly drowned on another occasion. "I dived in and brought him up," Southwick remembered. "We had to roll him for some time to get all the water out. He, too, was a very sick man before he recovered."¹¹ Even those newly baptized were not always safe from the waters. Laura Rolley Peck, after being baptized by Lott Russon, felt ill and decided to sit on the steps for a few moments after the others had gone to the dressing rooms. She fainted and fell into the pool and was making "a funny, gurgling noise" when Southwick entered the building just in time to save her life.¹²

Southwick had much more to do than serve as the pool lifeguard. A June 23, 1903, notice in the *Lehi Banner* listed Saratoga's long hours of operation during his managership:

Sundays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Mondays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at which time the plunge will close for cleaning. Open rest of week from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. exclusively for ladies.

Suits 25 cents each

Despite Saratoga's popularity, the Utah Sugar Company was anxious to sell both the farm and resort. The August 15, 1901, *Lehi Banner* announced that Messrs. Segmiller, Parks, and others, who had an option on the property, were negotiating for a sale with eastern capitalists. Further interest in the area was enhanced by speculation that the Salt Lake and Utah Railroad was considering building a spur line down the west side of the Jordan River to Saratoga.

Despite rumors of an eastern buy out, Saratoga was eventually sold to Lehi interests. The April 25, 1914, *Lehi Banner* announced that the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company had sold the property to the Austin Brothers and the Austin and Sons Sheep companies for \$60,000. The Austins' interest was initially speculative. They anticipated selling

¹⁰Ibid., p. 97.

¹¹Ibid., p. 98.

¹²Ibid.



*Saratoga in the
1920s. Courtesy of
Wanda Bushman.*

lake frontage lots to Salt Lake City capitalists for “residential purposes at fancy prices.” The resort was to be leased with 20-50 acres of surrounding land, while the ranch was to be subdivided into farm parcels. Spokesman George Austin foresaw that “within two years street cars would be running there . . . within five years hundreds of suburban homes would be built on the lake front . . . [and] the resort would be the most valuable asset that Lehi ever had.”¹³ Further plans were jointly announced one month later by Austin and Utah-Idaho Sugar Company manager Thomas Cutler, a stockholder in Austin Brothers. Ten summer bungalow tents were to be built as a nucleus for Lake Front, the proposed name of the new town. A plat of the city lots had already been made, and planners announced that within a few weeks streets and cement sidewalks were to be laid out.

¹³ *Lehi Banner*, May 9, 1914.



Above: *Saratoga in the 1930s.*
 Courtesy of Mick Eastmond. Left:
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Eastmond whose
 family has owned Saratoga since 1930.
 Courtesy of Jean Gordon. Below: Women
 bathers at Saratoga. Courtesy of Jean
 Gordon.



To improve transportation between Lehi and Saratoga, the road was upgraded, "turnpiked," and turned over to the county. Hourly automobile service was initiated between the Reltuc Inn in Lehi and the resort. In addition, two seven-passenger touring cars began making regular runs between the resort and Provo. In connection with Geneva Resort (near present Lindon Marina), Billy Wilson's large pleasure boat initiated several daily trips between the two fun spots. To improve boating facilities, the Saratoga pier was extended further out onto the lake so that passengers could embark more easily from the excursion boat.

The summer colony was under the supervision of Robert and Marion Cutler, managers of the Reltuc (Cutler spelled backwards) Inn. Anticipating big Fourth of July crowds, they had converted the west section of the bowery or picnic pavilion into a "first-class cafe," specializing in black bass and spring chicken dinners. An added attraction for the holiday was an electric band, "composed of eighteen pieces and . . . similar to those that may be found at Coney Island and other summer watering places." The announcement noted that the band would supply music for the grounds and also for people who wanted to "practice the late new dances" in the pavilion.¹⁴

Though the June 28, 1914, assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and the outbreak of war in Europe loomed over the heads of Saratoga's new owners, their mood was upbeat. On July 16 W. C. Orem, president of the Salt Lake and Utah Railroad, visited the resort and promised that when the main line had been completed to Payson, a "branch to Saratoga" would be built.¹⁵ Anticipating a real estate boom, the Austins freed themselves from operation of the Saratoga farm. Gilbert and Arthur Knudson leased 150 acres of the fertile land, as did John Whimpey and James B. Clark. The balance of tillable ground was rented to the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company for growing sugar beets and sugar beet seed.¹⁶

Though the Austin brothers' real estate plans were spirited and well planned, consumer interest never materialized. Lake Front was the first project to be abandoned. Two years later promotion was also halted on the sixty-acre Saratoga town sites northwest of the resort. Despite the failure of the property developments, the resort thrived. In 1916 a new outdoor pool and bathhouses were built. Other addi-

¹⁴ *Lehi Banner*, July 18, 1914.

¹⁵ *Lehi Banner*, June 6 and 13, July 4, 1914.

¹⁶ *Lehi Banner*, December 26, 1914.

tions included shooting galleries, candy booths, rowboats for the lake, and many new tents for use by campers.¹⁷

Lehi businessman Abe Gudmundsen leased the resort during 1918-23. He, like other managers of the resort, often faced unfounded rumors of poor sanitation. A report in the September 2, 1920, *Lehi Sun* announced that "some malicious persons for personal reasons" were gossiping that health conditions were not good at the resort and that a "person with an incurable contagious disease was at the place." The county health inspector refuted these rumors by stating that the resort was in a "first-class sanitary condition." Similar stories circulated again in 1924. A Provo newspaper reported that "several cases of serious sickness have come from two Utah County pools, one in the extreme north and another in the southwest." The report prompted Saratoga to elicit a response from Lehi physician Fred D. Worlton, who announced:

I have been intimately connected with Saratoga from a professional point of view for the past eleven years and I am positive that the sanitary condition of the resort is better today than it ever has been during that time.

The cleaning of the pools and the changing of the water is as good as it is possible to be obtained with the water supply at hand. As far as I know state inspection has never found anything wrong with the health conditions of the resort.¹⁸

Leon Taylor, who leased the facility during 1925-30 announced when the resort opened in the spring of 1929 that arrangements had been made to empty the water in both pools each night and to refill them with fresh water. In addition, a constant stream of fresh water would flow through the pools. "Patrons can now feel" he added, "that this water is as clean and pure as it can be made and bathing will carry little danger from disease."¹⁹

Frank H. Eastmond, operator of the popular Geneva resort on the east side of Utah Lake, announced in the spring of 1930 that he had purchased an interest in the Saratoga resort and would manage it during the upcoming season. Ambitious remodeling was undertaken. The May 29 *Lehi Sun* noted that a new lighted entrance was being built and that the north side of the grounds would become a parking lot. The old adobe boarding house, which had served both as summer

¹⁷ *Lehi Sun*, June 13, 1946.

¹⁸ *Lehi Sun*, August 7, 1924.

¹⁹ *Lehi Sun*, May 16, 1929.

housing for vacationers and a school for Saratoga-area children, was torn down.²⁰ The baseball diamond was sodded, and the dancing pavilion was newly painted and decorated. Music for the season was furnished by the Columbians, and dances were held each Wednesday night and on holidays.

Perhaps Saratoga's most dramatic improvements in the summer of 1930 were to the swimming pools. Three new hot water wells were driven—two of four-inch and one of two-inch pipe. The water was slightly cooled to "invigorate instead of fatiguing" before being piped into the pools where fountains and sprays had been built. To improve the purification of the water a large capacity filtering unit was installed in each pool. This system proved to be so efficient that "now the bottom can be seen in every part of either pool." Eastmond was so confident of swimmers' satisfaction that he boasted "if you will swim at Saratoga and do not declare it the greatest and best swim you have ever enjoyed then your money is awaiting you at the office."²¹ The resort owner promoted the quality of Saratoga's water to the point of advertising in the August 18, 1932, *Lehi Sun*, "swim in drinking water—Gents 25¢, ladies 10¢." Eastmond's additional claim that clean, clear water prevented drownings seems well taken. In the more than 30 years that he managed Saratoga there was not a single drowning incident.

Swimming and bathing were not the only activities at Saratoga. In the early days of the resort, for example, hundreds of Mormons were baptized there. Most events, of course, were recreational rather than religious. The September 1, 1921, *Lehi Sun* described a typical day of fun filled with baseball, band concerts, dancing, swimming, boating, picnicking, and airplane stunts by Rex Smith, the *Deseret News* birdman. Boxing and wrestling exhibitions were also popular. But aside from swimming, dancing has always attracted the largest crowds to the resort. Dancers on August 30, 1929, enjoyed the big band sounds of Ralph Mingilaccio and his Chicago Hotel Orchestra and were also treated to a "Bathing Beauty Review." Saturday night, June 17, 1933, in the depths of the depression, the Byron Jones Orchestra, Leroy Duncan and his Playhouse Orchestra, and the Greater Melodians competed in a "battle of music."²²

²⁰ *Lehi Sun*, October 6, 1932.

²¹ *Lehi Sun*, May 29, 1930.

²² *Lehi Sun*, June 15, 1933.

The late summer of 1935 saw three big dances at the resort. At the "Free Swim Dance" on September 1 the resort provided a free swim pass with each purchased dance ticket. The Labor Day dance capped a day filled with races, cash prizes, free candy, and a coin shower. A special event, a frog-catching contest, offered twenty-five cents to each capturer of a frog. A grand water carnival and boxing exhibitions also entertained visitors. At 9:00 p.m. the "Fox Trot Dance" began and continued until 1:00 a.m., as did the swimming. The closing "Carnival Dance" was held Saturday, September 7, with music provided by King's Vagabonds. During the summer season of 1937 a free bus left Lehi for the resort at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday nights. Dancers traveling to Saratoga on Saturday, May 30, were treated to a "Big Waltz Dance" and the music of the Byron Dastrup orchestra. KOVO radio station in Provo sponsored many record hops in the dancing pavilion during the 1960s. Dancing remained popular at the resort until the 1970s.

An ingenious promoter of new ideas, Frank Eastmond announced that during the 1937 season all ladies could swim free on Sunday evenings. Free swimming lessons every afternoon were also offered. Eastmond, in association with other pool owners around the state, also sponsored a swimming team. These teams held weekly contests, competing for prize money at the various resorts.

During the summer of 1938, \$35,000 in road work between Lehi and Saratoga was completed by the W. W. Clyde Construction Co. of Springville. In addition to paving it for the first time, the roadbed was raised and several bad curves straightened. Many believed the improvements to be a ploy by Utah County officials to get Utah state government officials to build a proposed prison at Saratoga. The Lehi Lions Club had contacted state officials upon learning that money had been appropriated by the state legislature for closing the old Sugar House prison and building a new penitentiary elsewhere. A deadlock had been reached between a Brigham City site and the Crystal Hot Springs at the Point of the Mountain. The 700-acre Saratoga site, including both the farm and ranch, was considered by the state committee as a compromise. Austin Brothers Association offered the Saratoga ranch for \$35,000, and Eastmond wanted \$15,000 for the resort. The other sites were considerably more expensive, with the Point of the Mountain property tendered for \$80,000.

Despite the advantages of an influx of state money, new jobs, and an increased produce market, many Lehi residents opposed the

construction of a prison at Saratoga. Citizen opposition was noted in a petition to Gov. Henry H. Blood published in the January 12, 1939, *Lehi Free Press*:

1. We feel that the location of such an institution would be as detrimental to the growth and development of this vicinity as it is to the growth and development of the southeast part of Salt Lake City and therefore we are as anxious to keep it away from here as Salt Lake City is to get it away from its present location.

2. The water rights for this property are only secondary water rights and entirely inadequate for the needs of such an institution.

3. We feel that the Saratoga Resort as a resort is a bigger asset to the community than a state penitentiary would be and now that we have a fine highway to the resort we do not feel that it should be closed for prison farm use. Thousands of people patronize the resort each year.

4. To tap the artesian basin of Lehi... to obtain culinary water for such an institution would probably affect the... wells of this district.

The fourteen member prison site selection committee, headed by Judge Samuel W. Stewart, eventually chose the Point of the Mountain location. Most Lehi citizens breathed a sigh of relief, and Saratoga remained a popular resort. After World War II three of Frank Eastmond's sons, R. T. (Dick), J. N. (Jeff) and R. M. (Mick), joined him in the business. In 1948 they installed a new water system which piped culinary water two and a half miles to the resort. This eliminated the need to truck in drinking water, made modern cafe facilities available, and allowed the upgrading of restrooms and showers. The cooler water also made it possible to regulate precisely the temperature of both swimming pools.

By the beginning of the 1950 season additional improvements had been made. A new entrance was built, and a lobby was added onto the main building which housed the indoor pool. Additional landscaping was completed, and hundreds of new feet of lawn were planted. Sun bathing was enhanced by 2,500 feet of sun decking. The cold cement floors of the dressing rooms were warmed by hot water circulating through pipes under the floor. Diving facilities in the outdoor pool were created by lengthening the pool fifty feet and deepening the north end. To improve the quality of water in the pools, a newly installed system filtered the water every five hours. This equipment was designed by the Utah State Board of Health which had closed down all but seven swimming resorts in the state the previous summer. Manager Eastmond was proud to announce that Saratoga had never been closed by the Board of Health.



Saratoga's indoor pool in the early 1950s. Courtesy of Mick Eastmond.

In 1953, after suffering a stroke, Frank Eastmond relinquished the management of the resort to his sons. In 1963 Mick Eastmond became sole manager of the resort, while other family members remained stockholders in the corporation. The Eastmonds always attracted large group outings to Saratoga. The *Lehi Free Press* of August 22, 1935, for example, announced a week's schedule which on Tuesday included a Utah County 4-H Club Day for 2,000 boys and girls. The next day was reserved for the Barr Chevrolet group, and on Thursday the Salt Lake County maintenance shop workers spent the day at the resort. On Saturday the Carson family, Wells Ward, and the Fifteenth Ward of Salt Lake City held reunions.

During the 1950s numerous city recreation organizations began busing children to Saratoga. Thousands of Utahns learned to swim through these programs. Entertainment for the children extended beyond the pools. In the summer of 1954 the Eastmonds enlarged their midway to include two Ferris wheels, a Roll-o-plane, and a merry-go-round to go with the miniature train and airplane swings they already had installed. By the early 1960s a diving pool had been built north of the outdoor pool, and a children's wading pool was added to the south. A large slippery slide for use in the outdoor pool was also erected.



Saratoga after the 1968 fire. Courtesy of Richard S. Van Wagoner.

Boating events have always been a part of Saratoga's history. In the earliest days of "Beck's Hot Springs," rowboats were rented at the resort's docks on Utah Lake. During the summer of 1921 the *Utah Bell*, a twenty-passenger launch capable of traveling 27 miles per hour to Payson, Provo, Geneva, and American Fork, was put into service.²³ In the early 1950s the boat harbor and docks near the resort were extensively improved as the popularity of water skiing grew. Many skiing and boating events have been sponsored by the resort. On July 4, 1957, Alvie Hedger unsuccessfully attempted to set a world speed record with his hydroplane. A special event in the author's memory was University of Utah All-American quarterback Lee Grosscup throwing footballs to a butter-fingered water skier who missed every pass thrown.

In the spring of 1968 Saratoga lovers were stunned by a \$100,000 fire at the resort. Lost in the flames were two historic wooden structures built when Edward Southwick was manager of the resort—the dance pavilion and main building. The dance pavilion had recently been converted into an arcade, while the main building housed the in-

²³ *Lehi Sun*, June 30, 1921.

door pool, dressing rooms, laundry, ticket office, snack bar, and gift redemption center. Resort operator Mick Eastmond quickly had the debris removed, and the resort was ready for its Memorial Day opening three weeks later. A feature article in the May 23, 1968, *Lehi Free Press* announced that though new dressing rooms had been built, the indoor pool would not be re-covered. In addition to the four outdoor pools, the resort offered abundant camping and picnic areas, a midway with thirty-five rides and games, a miniature golf course, Utah Lake cruises and complete boat launching facilities, and a new recreation area built on the site of the old pavilion.

By the late 1970s manager Eastmond felt Saratoga needed a new image. "Instead of a ring toss, ride the ferris wheel, candy apple atmosphere," he announced that the 150,000 anticipated visitors to the resort in 1978 would find expanded picnic grounds, a new boat harbor, a few kiddie rides and "lots of peace and quiet."²⁴ The following summer, however, a new "Kamakazi" waterslide captured the interest of resort goers. The two-story structure swept riders from the site of the old dancing pavilion, near the upper pool, down a curving, twisting tube to a climactic entrance into the former wading area.

In recent years Saratoga has had to compete with a wide range of other recreational facilities, including a host of community swimming pools. In the early 1980s Utah experienced record breaking water years. Utah Lake, swallowing hundreds of miles of shoreline, rose to its highest point in history. Rumors that Saratoga was underwater initially kept people away from the resort. In 1983 manager Eastmond capitalized on the current American hot tub craze by converting the upper (former indoor) pool into a giant Jacuzzi. The "Kamakazi" slide remains a drawing card despite the development of other water theme parks within Utah and Salt Lake counties.

Utah Lake has spawned many famous fun spots. Woodbury Park (1880), Old Lake (1883), Geneva (1888), Murdock (1891), Lincoln Beach (1892), and American Fork (1892) resorts, though immensely popular in their heyday, are now remembered by only the oldest among us. But since the 1860s Saratoga has survived rumors, fires, floods, and the changing recreational interests of the faddish American public. Regardless of the future viability of the resort, thousands of us can never forget the pleasurable summer days and romantic nights we spent at Saratoga.

²⁴ *Lehi Free Press*, April 13, 1978.