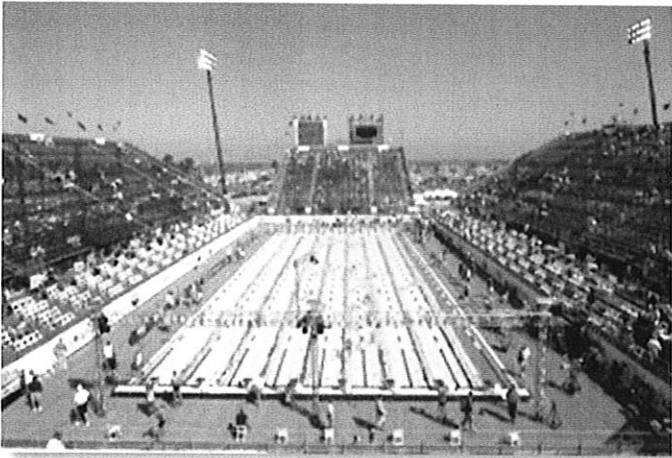


The History of Portable Pools



Portable, or temporary pools like the Myrtha pool (left) that was built for the 2004 USA Swimming Olympic Trials in Long Beach, CA are not new to swimming. As early as 1898, temporary use portable pools were constructed in the United States for the "Sportsmen's Show." The pool built for the Sportsmen's Show was 75 feet by 45 feet and was used

in the major arenas, such as Madison Square Garden, Boston's Mechanic's Hall, the Chicago Coliseum and Cleveland Armory. The pool was used for National and Regional swimming and water polo competitions and other aquatic entertainments.

Over the years, portable, temporary pools have enabled swimming to attract much larger audiences than would be possible at permanent facilities.

The pool built specially for the Water Follies of 1937 (below) was the largest portable pool in the world. It was 75 feet long, 25 feet wide and 6 1/2 feet deep. Built at over a cost of \$10,000, there were more than 18,000 feet of lumber in the tank which was lined with 2,000 square feet of specially treated rubberized canvas. It held 80,000 gallons of water, the temperature of which was kept at close to 80 degrees to allow the stars to give their best performance. It took a gang of 20 men a full fifteen hours to assemble and fill the monstrous pool. At the end of the pool there was a huge diving platform on which was erected the elaborate diving equipment.

