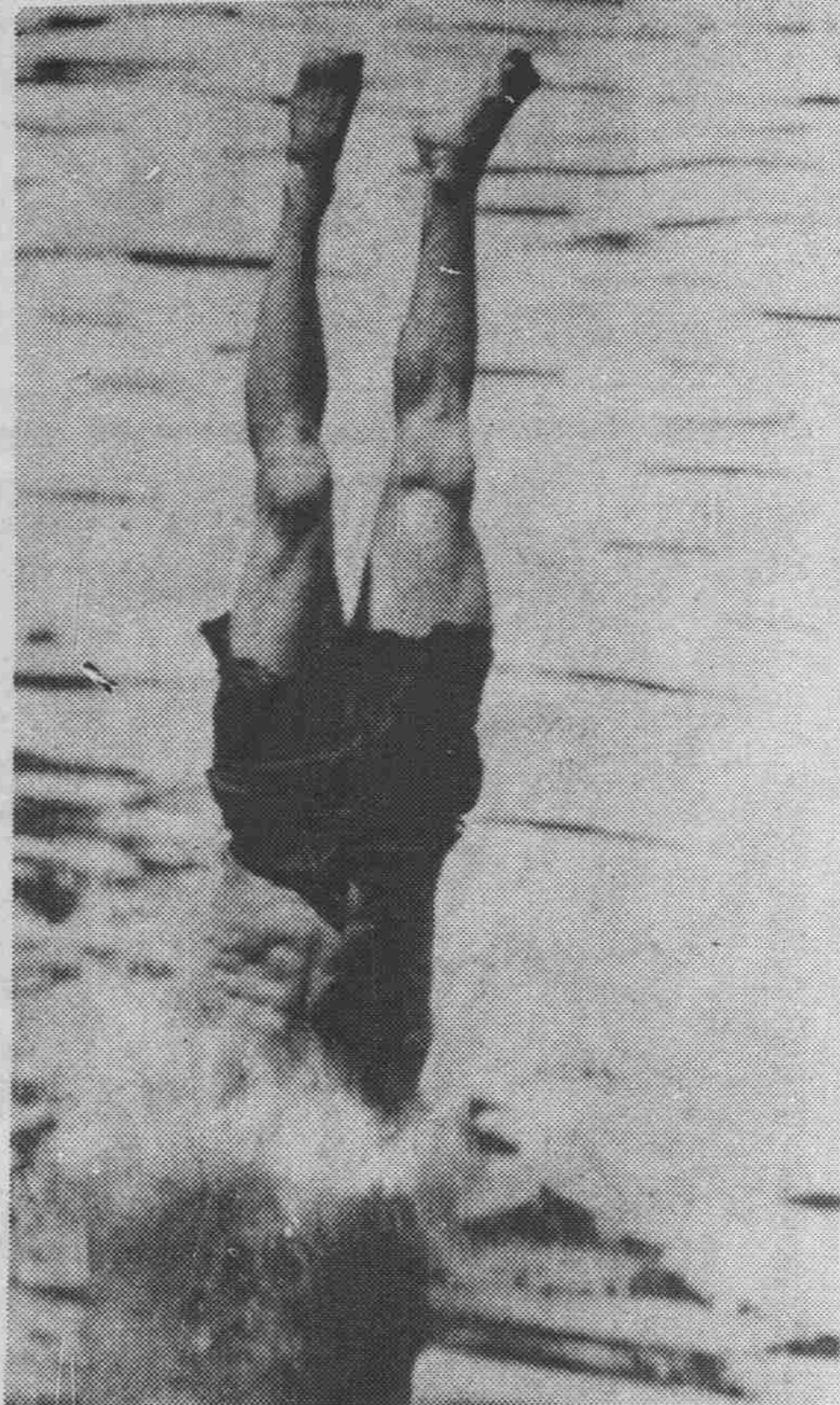


Staff photo by Joseph Thomas

Making a Big Splash . . .



What do you do on a free afternoon, when the sun is scorching and you have a few free hours? Try a refreshing dive into Lake Clearwater.

Take a break from the heat—go swim

By **BOB BRUECKNER**
Staff Writer

There was a creak from the limb above as the boy on the rope swung out high over the smooth water. He felt the crisp rush of air on his wet glistening body. The boy hung on for a second at the top of the arc and then dropped neatly into a headfirst dive into the calm, cool water of the shady cove.

This is the old swimming hole found on a small cove at Lake Clearwater where many adventurous youngsters come to spend a cool, invigorating afternoon. The youngsters at the rope swing range from elementary school kids to UNC students escaping the drudgery of books and papers.

Across the lake basking coed beauties are pretending to read books on the beach. Most of the books are used as pillows. Two ROTC Marines are crossing the lake, pulling a huge ice cooler filled with refreshing beverages between them as they swim for the rope

swing. Others simply sit on their towels and sip beer under the heat of the afternoon sun.

A lone young man floats effortlessly on his back in the middle of the lake. He is looking up into the blue sky rimmed by pines along the banks and hears the sounds of other swimmers only faintly as small waves lap at his wet body. Peace on the water.

The setting is Clearwater Lake. Owned and operated by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA since 1970, the lake is part of Camp Clearwater. The camp, located just four miles south of Chapel Hill on Farrington Rd., includes not only the lake, but 30 acres of land that can be used for hiking camping and picnicking.

The lake has pure, clean running water held behind a huge dam built in 1927. It is also the largest and probably least expensive place to go swimming in the Chapel Hill area. By joining the YMCA for an annual fee of \$17, a "Y" member can swim at the lake free. Or a \$1 pass can be bought to swim for

the day by going to the YMCA office.

The lake site itself contains three beaches, two rope swings and a bath house with cold showers. During the week it is open from 1 pm until dark, with two lifeguards on duty. On the weekends there are three lifeguards working who stay around the major beaches. The YMCA also runs a day camp on one side of the lake and only day campers can use the docks and beach area of that side on weekdays.

According to John A. King, Executive Director of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA, in late April at least 400 people per day went out to the lake. On the weekends as the summer months go by, estimates put this number at about 500 to 600 people a day.

"It was used a lot during the water shortage last summer when all the pools were closed," King said. "Clearwater is a nice setting, and we're glad to make it available to the public and students."

King mentioned that the lake is within

biking distance of campus. Although there are a few hills to climb, a cool swim awaits the bike rider for his four-mile journey.

Besides swimming, the lake has good fishing (in the early morning or evening when the crowds are away), and there are hiking trails set amid dense pine woods.

So if you are tired of studying in the dungeons of Wilson library and want to head for the Beach (but are low on time and funds), venture to Lake Clearwater and discover that there is a bit of paradise left in the world.

Liquor-by-the-drink passed on the third reading on the floor of the state Senate Wednesday. The bill passed by a vote of 26-20. Tuesday, the bill passed by a bare majority of 24-23 on the second reading. The bill now goes to the House.

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