

# Schwan Lake Is A Big Mess

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of its three overflow pipes had been plugged with logs.

Simpkins said he went to the local state parks and recreation headquarters and warned officials there that the logs should be removed or water pressure would wash out the dam. But, he added, no action was taken.

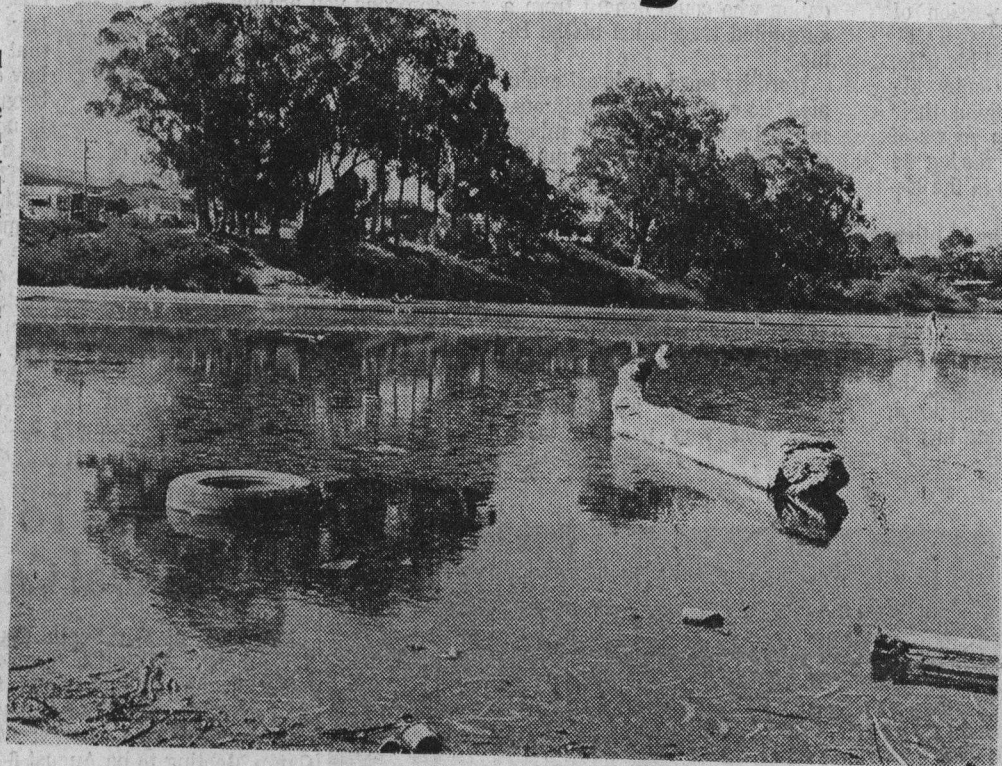
About a year ago, just as Simpkins predicted, the dam washed out.

Simpkins went to Monterey to take the problem to Art Lloyd, a regional maintenance supervisor for the state recreation department. He reported Lloyd told him the County of Santa Cruz intended to reconstruct the East Cliff Drive bridge and would include in the structure a valve system which would allow sea water to come into the lake, but not drain out until the lake water had reached an acceptable height.

Simpkins went to the county to verify that such plans actually were in the works and was told, he said, that such was in fact the case.

But nothing happened, so Simpkins contacted Lloyd again. He said he was told the recreation department has adopted a strict new ecology policy which would prohibit the state from building a dam, since it would interrupt the normal washout-replenishment cycle.

But in accordance with the same policy, Simpkins said he was assured, the state would



Debris-littered Schwan Lake

stop filling in the beach pool which interrupts the same cycle.

The lake drained again early this year, shortly after Simpkins had talked to Lloyd. And, with the lake at a low ebb, the state filled up the beach pool, shutting out the replenishment waters of Monterey Bay.

That's why the lake looks the way it does now.

When he complained to state officials, Simpkins said the state men "were full of excuses."

"They said they couldn't disturb the ecology by putting in the dam," he declared, "then they turned right around and filled in the pool to prevent the natural flow from the ocean."

"The situation is the worst it has been in years. Ducks can't even swim in it. It smells, and there is all that refuse exposed."

Simpkins also stated the weeds have never choked the lake as badly as this year. He blamed their accelerated growth on the low water level.

Mrs. George Connolly, whose family maintains a summer home at the lake, said the family hasn't been able to use its small sailboat all summer because of the weeds. She noted the lake is dotted with dead fish, probably, she thinks, because the lake's oxygen supply has been exhausted.

"It seems a shame to let that spot get that way because there are hundreds of people who enjoy the lake, even if they are just driving by," she stated.

Paul Griffith, local supervisor for the state recreation department, said it was by mistake the beach pool was filled earlier this year shutting out the tide water replenishment.

He confirmed the department's policy on ecology and said henceforth the pool no longer will be filled, and predicted that with next winter's normal storm action the lake will be restored to its former state, where it will remain "through the forces of nature."

**Dr. C. H. Lindner Jr.**

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