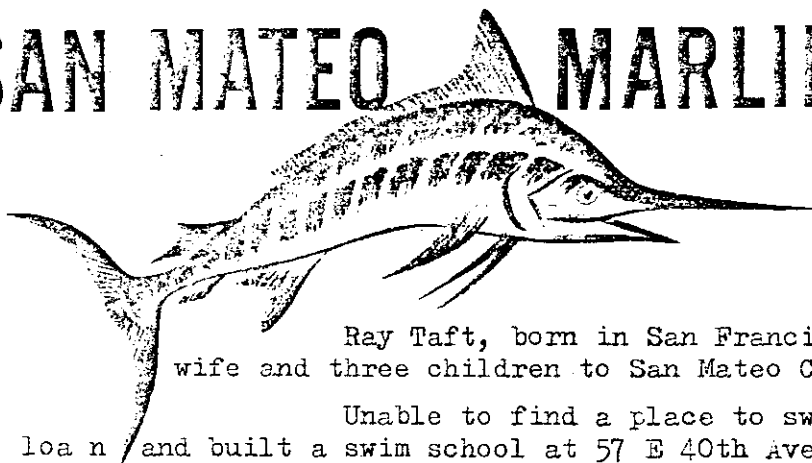
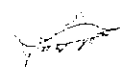
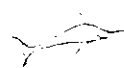


SAN MATEO MARLINS



Ray Taft, born in San Francisco in 1919, moved with his wife and three children to San Mateo County in 1953.

Unable to find a place to swim they applied for a G.I. loan and built a swim school at 57 E 40th Ave., San Mateo. Opened May 1, 1955.

Immediately started a swim team with the few pupils he had, mostly neighborhood children. After ten years he enclosed the pool for overexposure to the sun and keep the pool open year around. He taught children from 4 yrs and up for the most part of 34 yrs. He prepared children for the special olympics and gave water exercises to Stroke patients. He still has two friends come Tues & Thurs for water exercises and reviewing their swimming after one severe stroke and another minor ~~problems~~.

The age group swim program blossomed and he moved first to San Mateo ~~High~~ High and then Hillsdale High and coached two to be World Champions. Many of his former team members have since become swim coaches for High Schools and Colleges and one at Louisiana University.

In 1970 he started a parents competitive swim team. Nine women and himself entered their first meet in 1971 in Livermore. That same year he had a double fracture in his leg and taught and coached from a wheel chair for six months.

Upon recovery and in need of more room he asked the San Mateo Recreation Dept if they had some time in the evenings for Masters (adult) swimmers to start a program. Starting with 4 swimmers it soon blossomed to 200 or more.

His first effort was to hold the very first A.A.U. National short course swimming championships at the College of San Mateo. His team won and he won every event he swam and has continued to do the same almost every year at the Nationals and Pacific and local Championships. Many, almost allways, he won individual high point. In 1973, his team won at Santa Monica short course, and 1974 Long Course Nationals his team won. 81 members with as many medley and free relays and mixed relays he organized to the point where he forgot to put his suit on when it was time for him to swim on his relay. No, he did not go in in his shorts.

He has received over the years two Resolutions for service to the city of San Mateo Community.

Balboa High Hall of Fame for his swimming ability in school and since. Womens magazine swimmer, coach of the month.

Twice Pacific Masters athlete of the year.

Since the start of points for overall open water swimming, he has won the trophy every time, except once.

He has made All-American every year since it's inception.

Made the All-Star team every year since it's inception

Over -

coached

- 1955 started age group San Mateo Marlins in own swim school
- 1970 Sr. Olympics in Los Angeles, 1971 went again - all wins age group 40 yrs+, 50 yrs.
- 1972 Hosted and won first A.A.U. National Masters at C.S.M. high point team
- 1973 High Point Team in Santa Monica s.C. Nationals
- 1974 Long Course Nationals Santa Clara, first place team, 1st men, 1st women
- 1980 L.C. Nationals Santa Clara, 1st place team, 1st men - 1st women
- 1981 Davis, Pacific association Championships s.c. and L.C.
- 1982 won Pacific Association Championships s.c. & L.C.
- 1983 Pacific association women L.C. and s.c. first
- 1983 Lake Berreyessa High Point team with 65 swimmers
- 1984 Lake Berreyessa 2 mile swim Hi Point Team with 54 swimmers
- 1985 retired from daily coaching, now just when coach is on vacation or someone is sick.
- 1987 s.c. Nat'l's Stanford 3rd place women, 3rd place overall

Every year since 1970 Ray has won or tied for individual age group high point swimmer

Twice in 14 years he has received "Swimmer of the Year in the Pacific Association.

Won high point at at least one national championships every year until they discontinued the award. (only went to one National a year due to time off work)

Nominated for Ransom Arthur Award 4 times. The most prestigious award in Masters Swimming.

Award for 35 yrs serving the American Red Cross in San Francisco and San Mateo County in 1987

Two very special Awards from the City of San Mateo for service to the Community the last in 1986 just after his retirement.

1984 World Championships 5 first, one second in New Zealand

1986, World Championships 5 first, three World Records only 5 events allowed

1988, World Championships, 6th first, 5, second places, two relay firsts.

He had severe neurological problems all year

In June 1989 Ray turns 70 yrs and expects to ~~set more records~~ break more records in the new age group.