

LIFEGUARDS TAKING TESTS AT JACOB RIIS PARK YESTERDAY



Two of the candidates launching a catamaran as part of the examination

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VETERANS FLUNKED IN LIFEGUARD TESTS

Only 180 of 228 on Preferred Rating List From Last Year

Survive for Appointment

Young men eager to satisfy Park Commissioner Robert Moses's demand for lifeguards who can swim with one another in practical tests yesterday at Jacob Riis Park, where a strong undertow and pounding surf occasionally turned a candidate into a subject for life-saving technique.

One hundred successful competitors will be assigned to the city's beaches for Summer service at \$5 a day. Many of them are to replace veterans who either balked at taking the test introduced by Mr. Moses or who failed it. One out of every twelve on the 1937 list was found unable to swim fifty yards in 35 seconds at the Astoria pool. James J. Flannelly, assistant director of examinations held under the Park Department, declared yesterday. The new men all did it.

The preferred rating carried more than 228 names from last year, but only 180 survived for appointment again, Mr. Flannelly explained. A few of the old timers had been around the beaches since 1922, it was said.

Undertow Proves Handicap

Conditions at the oceanfront yesterday were described by George Cronin, lifeguard and pentathlon specialist, as "average"—but he smiled. Young men near the minimum of 135 pounds and 5 feet 7 inches were tossed by the white-caps.

"First she (the undertow) sweeps you this way, then, all of a sudden, that way," one slender youth asserted.

They were required to swim in pairs, a candidate and a subject, or victim, out to a dory anchored beyond the breakers. There John J. Carty, department examiner, and Joseph Nill, swimming coach at West Point, recorded their numbers, and on they went as far as a buoy, fifty yards distant.

The subject took a strangle hold on his companion, who broke it and propelled both toward shore as best he could. Hardest part of the test appeared to be slinging the subject over one's back in a zone of frothy surf. Here, several times, exhausted candidates collapsed into the arms of the "victims."

Resuscitation Part of Test

Resuscitation exercises were a regular feature of the examination conducted on the beach. Promising performances were given by George Kraft, who failed last season because he was shy one inch in height, and Jim Kojac, 21-year-old brother of Dr. George Kojac, Olympic back-stroke champion ten years ago. Kraft carried a partner who weighed 220 pounds, eighty more than he does. Kojac, watched by his brother, raced out of the sea in convincing style.

Another test involved the catamaran, a seat fixed to a pair of pontoons. Charles Hanniquet of Jones Beach judged the competitors in retrieving objects in six feet of water and making rescues with the craft. An unidentified candidate smashed the "cat" early—his displacement was nearly 300 pounds, it was learned.

Applications were received from 1,250 young men, most of them college students between the ages of 18 and 20 years. Those who pass the tests but fail to obtain an appointment now will be placed on the preferred list for 1939.



Charles Moebus, in the role of rescuer, bringing in Jim Ryan

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