

LAFAYETTE HOTEL



Imig Manor (later the Lafayette Hotel), circa 1946.

Larry Imig, a young entrepreneur who started in San Diego selling cars and then built homes, had this grand hotel built along El Cajon Boulevard between Louisiana and Mississippi streets as a “city within a city.” Begun in 1943 and completed in 1946, it was the only hotel project constructed in the country during World War II. Big name bands entertained Hollywood celebrities and “the cream of San Diego” in the ritzy Mississippi Room. The main building contained hotel rooms, twenty shops, four dining rooms, a patio terrace for dining and dancing, and a pool designed by Johnny Weissmuller, who starred in the movie *Tarzan*. The Red Fox Steak House, decorated with 18th century artifacts from England, was added to the northeastern corner in 1959.

