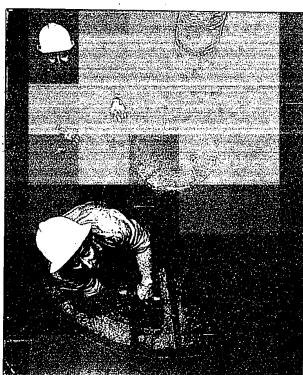
UM-D shows Ford's powerhouse to public



Burt Burley (top) and Rick Holychuk were the University of Michigan-Deerborn, among the first volunteers to work on the They are former UM-D students. The Henry Ford powerhouse project, a hydropeochrouse will be open to public tours electric plant which has been restored at Saturday, Oct. 19.

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"When you finish one thing," says David Conrad, "all you have to do is look around and find something else that needs fixing." Since 1977, Courad has volunteered time and work to restore the powerhouse next to auto pioner. Henry Ford's residence on the University of Michigae-Dearborn campus. The powerhouse and boathouse, on the Rouge River, will be the sites of tours and presentations when the campus holds open house Saturday, Oct. 19.

UM-D is on Evergreen just south of Ford Road, Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
CONRAD BEGAN work at the powerhouse when he was a UM-D engineering student.

Another student, Burt Burley, had submitted a detailed proposal to the university to renovate the building, which had stood dormant since the death of Clara Ford in 1950. With the university supplying materials and the volunteers domaing their time, the students began work.

Volunteers found frozen control gates and accelerator controls, 10 feet of water covering the turbines, and various other states of disrepair as a result of 25 years of non-use, Conrad said.

Still, major pieces of equipment didn't red the PowerRHOUSE, built in 1914, was

need to be replaced, but only important cleaned, or modified.

THE POWERHOUSE, built in 1914, was completed before the actual Fair Lane mansion, so that construction workers could use the services of the building when

could use the services of the building when working on the mansion.

Among the five floors of equipment are electric generators, an air compressor, brine and amonia pumps for refrigeration, water filters for the swimming pool, a 12-car garage, boilers, phone equipment, the centralized vacuum cleaser; and more.

In 1983, the first major result of volunteer efforts came into being, with the restoration to working condition of both of the

Among the five floors of equipment are electric generators, an air compressor, brine and ammonia pumps for refrigeration, water filters for the swimming pool, a 12-car garage, boilers, phone equipment, the centralized vacuum cleaner, and more.

turbine engines. Since that time, Conrad and his co-workers have continued to work on the remaining components.

The university has also renovated other areas of the powerhouse to become the Henry Ford Estate's visitor center, and the starting point for general tours.

EVEN WHILE work moved staedily along here, and in other parts of the estate, the Ford's boathouse, has 120 feet of the river from the powerhouse, remained completely neglected until very recently.

A September 1984 planning study, undertaken by estate director Donn Werting, included comments by a host of visiting specialists who saw the boathouse as ranking last in both artistic importance and restoration potential.

A major problem was four feet of earth which had been laid down to block which which had been laid down to the flower shall between the boathouse and the flouge River. Much of the floor was also covered when the canal was filled in about 1982.

"We broke the big buildozer, which the city of Dearborn lent us, three times trying

1952.
"We broke the big buildozer, which the city of Dearborn lent us, three times trying to remove that stuff," Werling says. When work began this summer, Werling and yol unicers found one and one-half feet of dirt, along with an equal amount of sing underneath.

WHEN THE DIRT and slag were finally removed, workers found the earth-inte-grated structure to be in generally good condition.

grated structure to be in generally good condition.

Werling envisions many uses for the boathouse once the renovation is complete.

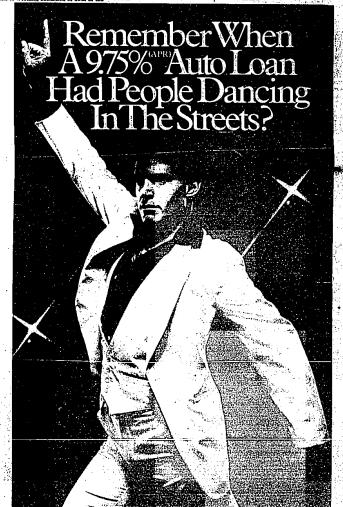
Werling would like to show historic Ford films on video causette players, install a district of the found boat, and other for the found boat, and other for the found boat, and contains for the found to the found to the found to the found for the found floor, and possibly even hold chamber music concerts there, the Extate director would like to institute canoe rides and ponton boat rides obt the cleaned-up river in front of the boathouse.

JACK SMILEY, a 1973 U of M-D gradu-te, continues to assist in the boathouse

restoration.

Smiley estimates that he has put in 200 bours cleaning out the trees in the area bours cleaning out the trees in the area from here. The last time it was cleaned out was probably 1974. Smiley said, adding that "life really cest to look at the old pictures and how the place used to be."

Admission is free for the Oct. 19 Open House to view the beauty of the boathouse, and the engineering wooders of the power-house.



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