

3rd Middle Rouge Cleanup Is Shorter, Shows Results



CAMP FIRE GIRLS Group 555 of Garden City (background) reaped this harvest of environmental shame from the Middle Rouge.

A lawn chair... barbed wire... the front end of a car... a bowling ball... the bloated corpse of a dog... picnic tables... a grill... a coin collector's belt... a gigantic kitchen pot... a couple of bicycles.

And of course many, many logjams.

That was the harvest Saturday as some 3,000 persons turned out to "Rescue the Rouge" in a project coordinated by the Jaycees of District 30 (western Wayne County).

"ACTUALLY, WE didn't pile up as much as last year," said Gary Bartram, the Westland member who was chairman of the third annual cleanup of the Middle Rouge.

"The cleanups are really starting to take effect and improve that river."

He was right on that point. The Livonia contingent, for example, closed down shop after about 1 p.m., and other groups found there weren't as many big things to get as in past years.

Nevertheless, Bartram

predicted the project would probably be carried out again in 1973. In contrast, a group called "Rescue the Rouge, Inc.," operating along a branch of the river in northwest Detroit, announced that it would abandon the project to governmental agencies after this year.

(In Farmington, a similar project Saturday drew 250 to 300 volunteers, but this will be the last year volunteers will be needed, DPW Director David Jones said the city alone can handle it next year.)

Participants here came up with some cases of poison ivy, a few wasp stings, many small cuts but no broken bones or serious injuries. The worst was a Livonia boy's cut knee that required six stitches.

BY BARTRAM'S figures, Wayne and Westland fielded 900 workers, Livonia 700 to 800, Plymouth 300 and Nor- thville 250. For its relative size, however, Garden City, whose local leader was Walt Grzyzsch, had the best turnout with 700 to 800.

The overall turnout was

about as good or perhaps a little better than in 1971, Bartram said.

Workers were of all ages, but junior high school students

predominated. In addition, 45 prisoners from the Detroit House of Correction worked in the Plymouth end of the river.

Participating governmental

agencies included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Wayne County Road Commission and the cities of Garden City, Westland and Livonia. For the most part, they provided dump trucks, front-end loaders and chain saws. Garden City and Westland provided several councilmen, too.

The county board voted a total of \$17,500 for both the northwest Detroit and Jaycees' Middle Rouge projects. Funds went for trucks, cranes and their operators.

The Michiganders Radio Club of Garden City provided communications aid. General Motors and Ford each gave \$100 and American Motors \$25. Ryder Truck Rental donated use of an 18-foot van, Wonder Bread and Hygrade provided special prices on buns and hot dogs, respectively. Spartan Stores provided napkins and paper plates, and Roger Cromwell, a teacher in the Wayne - Westland School District, donated use of a camp trailer as the headquarters.

THE FOOD WAS cooked by - who else? - the Jaycees Auxiliary.

"You know, District 30 is the No. 1 district in Michigan for running this project," said Bartram. "No other district in the state does anything like it. We have two district projects in the course of the year - this and the Plymouth State Home carnival. No other district has even one."

"They call us the "brotherhood-district."



GARY BARTRAM of Westland was chairman of the District 30 Jaycees' "Rescue the Rouge" project.



STUDENTS FROM LIVONIA's Riley and Whitman junior highs and Bentley High School perch atop their day's collection from the Middle Rouge. Clockwise, from left: Tom Corley, Cindy Gottshall, Denise Pruneau, Scott Wilson, Barb Lane, David Cole, Dave Jenkins and Larry Lodge.



AN UNDERWATER log was a real obstacle on the Plymouth segment of the Middle Rouge. Diners in the Thunderbird Inn may have looked out the window and seen Jaycee Dave Aldrich (left) and Mike Conant, a county employe with a chain saw, in the river below.



VOGEL JUNIOR High students from Garden City teamed up to haul this slimy log out of the muddy Middle Rouge River in Saturday's cleanup.



GEORGE VEACH was an Evans Scholar at the University of Michigan, but as a Westland Jaycee he wasn't afraid to get very, very muddy in Saturday's "Rescue the Rouge" project.

WAYNE AND WESTLAND fielded 900 volunteers, the largest single group on Saturday's "Rescue the Rouge" project. Front, from left: Mike Schuck; Angela Rabane, a Wayne High School biology teacher, and Bill Schuck. On the truck: Paul Hamilton, Kenneth Blair and Terry Edwards.