



BILL SALISBURY went in up to his neck in an unexpected deep hole, and water pours from his gloves as he climbs out. But he didn't quit. (Observer photo)



A SUNKEN RAFT was hauled from the mud by these four boys. It was a collecting point for debris until Saturday's cleanup project. (Observer photo)

Photos By Dewey Jenkins



ANDY SCOTT (in MTU shirt) gets a hand from Brian Weston in hauling a mud-filled tire from the Rouge River in Saturday's cleanup. (Observer photo)



ALL THIS WOOD used to be in the Rouge River, but Saturday's cleanup project eliminated these obstructions. Scene was between Nine Mile and Grand River, behind the old winery. (Observer photo)

### River Cleanup Made Rouge Free Flowing

"We now have a 95 per cent better stream," said David Jones, Farmington DPW director, after 200 volunteers spent six hours Saturday chopping up log jams and hauling them out of the choked Rouge River between Grand River and Nine Mile Rd. The cleanup sponsored by the City Beautification Committee and the National Bank of Detroit, put the finishing touches on a project begun last year to free the Rouge.

"We CLEANED the whole river last year, but we didn't finish the area between Grand River and Nine Mile Rd.," Jones said. "It was just too much. There were so many trees, and they were so big. So we went back to finish this year."

Jones said the DPW should be able to maintain the river by shoring up the bank, and pulling out a few trees during the winter without additional volunteer help. "You just can't give up with a river," he said. "You have to work at it all the time."

Besides the sponsoring groups, Student, Boy Scouts and the Jaycees worked on the cleanup. The city and Standard Building Co. furnished the heavy equipment. Youngsters worked at picking up debris along the shore while adults contended with the log jams. Besides logs, they hauled out a wagon wheel, a car hood, lawn mowers, tires and a mortar box — used by masons to mix cement.

DEBBIE WILL continue to find its way into the river, "and there are ice floes in the winter and people who dam up the river to hear the water ripple," Jones said, but he thinks the city can take care of those obstacles. Jones said removing the logjams reduced the water level in the river by two feet, "And there are minnows in the river now," he said happily, as if it was a testimony to the project's success.

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\*Annual percentage rate 8.41%

\*\*Annual percentage rate 11.08%



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