

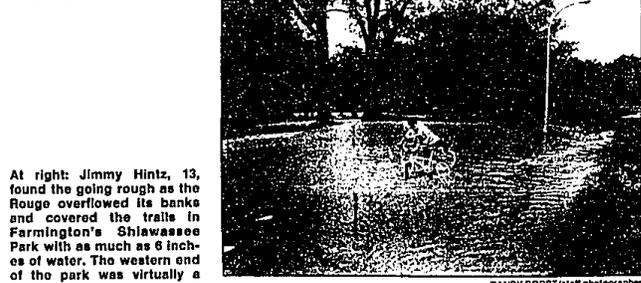
Torrential rain floods roads, basements

Continued from Page 1
 ing up out of the floor," said Gudum, from the Kendallwood home of Lena Wagner Wednesday afternoon.
 "You might be able to take a picture of us up on the roof. It's a one-story house. We can't go anywhere," Gudum added.
 Residents of Kendallwood subdivision, along Farmington Road between 12 and 13 Mile, weren't alone battling the rising rain water as the torrential downpour continued Wednesday after more than a week of on-again, off-again rain storms.
 "This is the worst I've seen it in five years," Farmington Hills Department of Public Works director Dan Rooney said. "I know a lot of people with flooded basements aren't happy, but the water is beginning to subside."



Michael Sands, 13, navigates his bike past a stalled van on Brandywine in Kendallwood subdivision.

McKINSTRIE DESCRIBED the state of her flooded neighborhood. From her windows, she could see a woman walking home after the tow truck she called to retrieve her car from the water couldn't make it into the subdivision. "The kids have been out swimming in the street," she said.
 Hundreds of calls poured into the Farmington Hills police and fire departments and the city hall as shocked residents tried to forestall the inevitable flooding of their basements and subdivision streets.
 Major roads, such as Orchard Lake Road, Northwestern Highway, Middlebelt, M-102 and Halsted, didn't escape the rain's wrath. Wednesday afternoon traffic was rerouted when portions of the thoroughfares were closed, Rooney said.
 The roadbed of 14 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road, washed out. Thirteen Mile, near Chesterbrook, also provided difficult driving as water poured over the roadway. The Woodbrooke Hills Swimming Club, on 13 Mile at Chesterbrook, also was under water.
 "It's the most frustrating storm I have ever seen," West Bloomfield resident Wendy Reiss said. "I tried to go down Northwestern and it was closed. It was completely flooded. It looked like a lake."
REROUTED WITH hundreds of

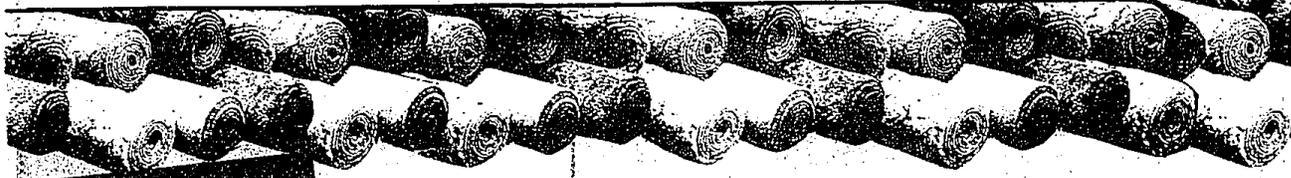


At right: Jimmy Hintz, 13, found the going rough as the Rouge overflowed its banks and covered the trails in Farmington's Shlawassee Park with as much as 6 inches of water. The western end of the park was virtually a lake.

other motorists Wednesday afternoon, Reiss spent an hour trying to get from 12 Mile and Middlebelt to her home near 15 Mile and Middlebelt. "It's a New York gridlock. You couldn't move. You were going in circles. Everytime I tried to divert, the police were there rerouting."
 In Farmington, nature was taking over as rain water and overflow from the Rouge River covered the swimming pool at Valley View Condominiums, 32030 Grand River, Farmington Director of Public Safety Frank Lauhoff said.
 "We're having the ordinary street flooding," Lauhoff said.
 As of Wednesday afternoon, Smithfield and Hawthorne were flooded. The Rouge River in Farmington's Shlawassee Park covered much of the parkland and edged close to Power Road.
 The Farmington Hills police and fire departments were out in force Wednesday, checking roadways and helping residents surrounded in water. Fire personnel were shutting off utilities for residents with flooded basements.
 City crews were using pumps in certain areas to pull the plug on filled basements.



A resident of Valley View Condominiums in Farmington surveys the flood waters from a balcony in the Grand River complex. Flash-flood warnings were posted for southern Oakland County, from Pontiac to Eight Mile, until 11:45 p.m. Wednesday.



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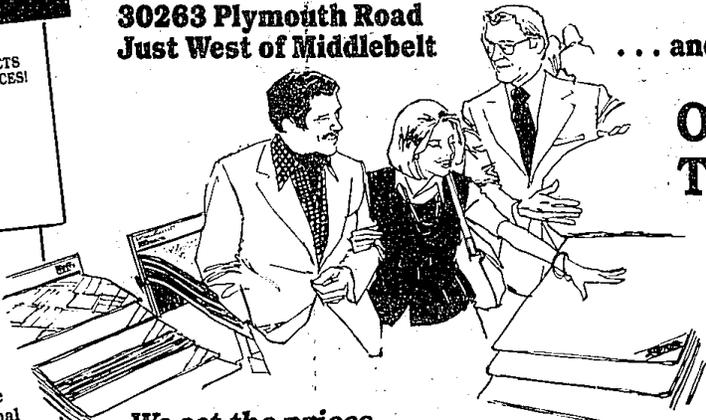
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