

Daily News, Friday, July 2, 1982

Joy to flow in tribute to tidied river

By DON WEINBRENNER

Music, magic and mime will begin Sunday at 10 a.m. as dignitaries and citizens gather at Bronx St. and E. Tremont Ave. (E. 179th St.) for the "Miracle on the River Festival," an event that culminates the Bronx River Restoration's monthlong river cleanup effort.

Continuous daylong entertainment will be shared by young and old to bid farewell to New York State Rivers Month, which was officially proclaimed by Gov. Carey.

During the month, many conservation agencies and organizations joined together to generate support for renewed commitment to the revitalization of the state's silting rivers.



TOM CUNNINGHAM DAILY NEWS

Miguel Quintana (l.) and Dennis Paul, executive director of the Bronx River Restoration, make forms for concrete table tops.



TOM CUNNINGHAM DAILY NEWS

Workers clean wall where youngsters will temporarily hang river-related pictures. From the lot, two pictures will be selected to be enlarged and painted on wall.

"Many other states," said Restoration's executive director Dennis Paul, "also organized events and projects during June as part of a movement around the country to establish an annual National Rivers Month."

During the festivities, dignitaries will dedicate a public garden and Restoration Park and preview a street-level storefront gallery, all within a one-block radius. The exhibit will depict a history of the Bronx River Restoration Project and also will show related artistic works.

THE MIRACLE MURAL will be one of the highlights. Children will paint river-related pictures to be hung along the mural wall. Two of the pictures will be selected to be enlarged onto the mural.

During Rivers Month, the nonprofit Bronx River Restoration, founded in 1974, pooled efforts with the city's Parks, Sanitation and Police departments, the State Department of Environmental Conservation and other city and state agencies to give a boost to the eight-year-old revitalization program.

"An interesting prelude to the Sunday event," said a spokesman, "will start at 8 a.m. today at the Gun Hill Road site of the Bronx River when rubbernecks can watch a U.S. Air National Guard helicopter pluck abandoned vehicles from the

brackish river and along its muddy banks. The chopper will work south, hefting away the junk with the cooperation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

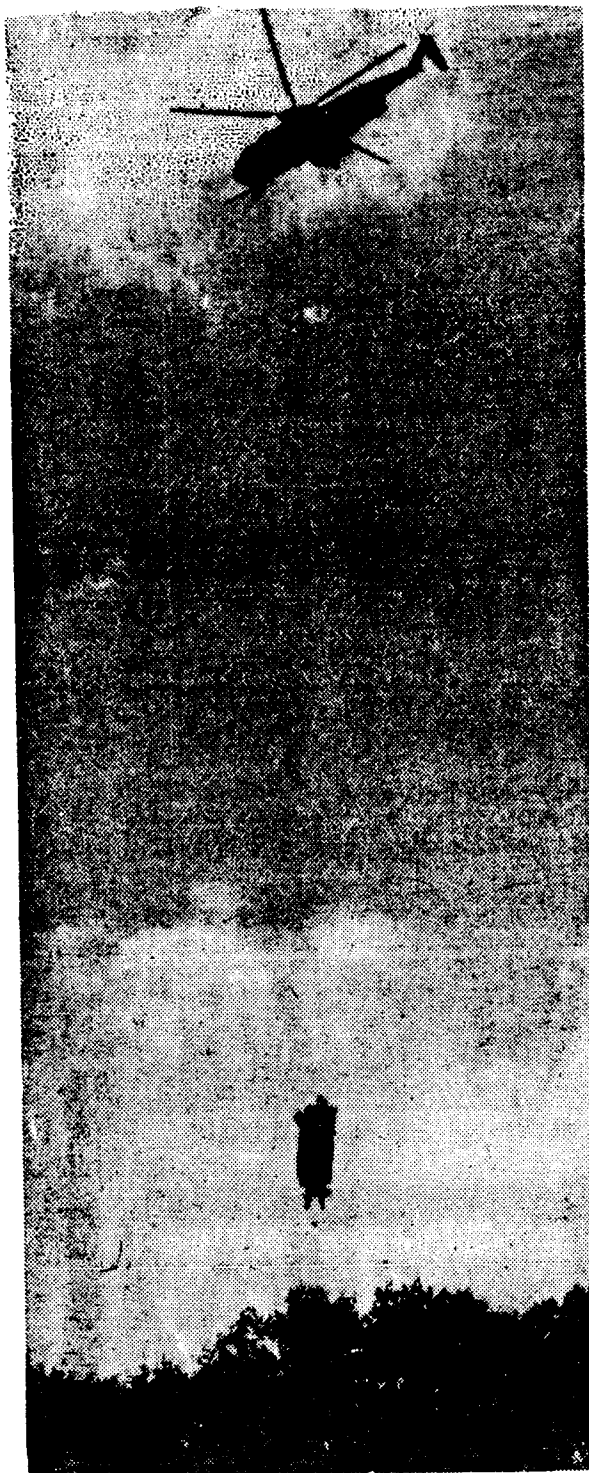
Volunteers already have cleared out weeds, but additional help is needed to remove silt from a half-mile segment of the river's hike-and-bike path.

"DUE TO FUNDING cutbacks," said Paul, "work on the path and the Restoration Park has been stalled for some time. However, the East Bronx Regional Boy Scouts, under-employed youths, and area residents, all are pitching in to make the miracle happen."

It is in these, and other ways that Restoration is actively working with the populace to create a near-miracle—to transform and expand the quality of the choking Bronx River—and, said Paul, "the lives of the people who draw inspiration from the idyllic setting."

"It's particularly relevant," he said, "that such a statement could emanate from the Bronx, long a media symbol of our national urban malaise."

"The river is people," Paul said. "It is the artery at the center of social, economic, cultural and educational activities that can help to stimulate the revitalization of its surrounding communities."



This sight greeted motorists July 2 when helicopter airlifted abandoned auto out of Bronx River.



TOM CUNNINGHAM DAILY NEWS

Member of special diving team rigs car to be hauled from the Bronx River by helicopter.

They'll give it a whirl again

By DON WEINBRENNER

Once again, a whirlybird will *chop-chop* out of the peaceful Bronx skies today at 9:30 a.m., aiming to pluck nine abandoned cars from the murky shallows of the polluted Bronx River.

Coordinator Dennis Paul, executive director of the Bronx River Restoration, initiated a similar airlift July 2 at E. Gun Hill Road, but was intercepted then by another helicopter that came menacingly out of the skies like the winged monster Rodan, which ruined quite a few plans and ate a great deal of Tokyo some unforgettable years ago in a Japanese-made movie.

This spoilsport from the city's Police Aviation Unit ruined a lot of cleanup plans.

Paul said their copter had time to retrieve only one abandoned heap from the river before the police copter stopped the activity.

"WE HAD THE APPROVAL of City Hall, but we failed to obtain a permit," he said.

"All systems are go, now," a happier Paul said yesterday. "We have the permit, we have the same helicopter from the New York Air National Guard, a special diving team will enter the river in wet suits to rig the cars to the lift apparatus, and we'll have two five-ton wreckers from the U.S. Army National

Guard to haul out by land anything the 'copter can't handle."

The Sanitation Department will assist with several trucks, cleaning up and hauling away the remains from the river site at Bronx Blvd. and E. 174th St.

Crowds of awe-stricken rubbernecks stopped dead in their tracks for the July 2 airlift, believing that a major car crash had occurred, or worse. It was a while before peace descended on the area, triggered by applause from Restoration volunteers as the first and only metallic hulk was raised dripping from the muck and dropped on Allerton Field.

"WE HAD TO QUIT the operation then, at least by air. Sanitation and the Parks Department helped us lug two more cars from the banks and two from adjacent land," said Paul, who foresees the removal today of at least nine autos.

"Today's airlift could start a sortie of such cleanups throughout the city," a Parks Department spokesman said. "Gravesend Bay and other water systems have also become burial grounds for abandoned cars. I'm sure the requests will flood in here once the Bronx River venture proves a success."

They will, if Paul's philosophy holds. He said: "Rivers are people. A river is the artery at the center of social, economic, cultural and educational activities that can help to stimulate the revitalization of its surrounding communities."

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1982

Crafts Are Featured In Outdoor Festivals

American Crafts Festival, the plaza at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, 64th and Broadway, 677-4627.

From noon to 9 P.M. this Saturday and Sunday, as well as July 10 and 11, there will be more than 400 displays of handmade home furnishings, jewelry, ceramics and other crafts. In addition to the exhibits and demonstrations, there will be performances by musical ensembles and a wide variety of food will be available in adjacent Damrosch Park. Admission is free.

Pennsylvania Dutch Kutztown Folk Festival, Route 22 between Reading and Allentown, Pa., 215-683-8707.

More than 250 craftsmen will exhibit and sell quilts, pewter, baskets, rugs, candles and other traditional Pennsylvania Dutch crafts at this nine-day festival held on 35 acres near Reading. On the Folk Festival Common, there will also be music, dancing, food, demonstrations and parades this Sunday and Monday. Festival hours are from 9 A.M. to dusk, Saturday through July 11. Admission is \$5, \$3 for children; parking is \$1.

"Come Quilt With Me" is sponsoring an all-day bus trip to the fair, leaving from the Made in America store at 1234 Madison Avenue (88th Street) on July 7 at 8 A.M. The cost is \$25, and reservations must be made at the store or by calling 377-3652.

Puppet Theater Festival, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, 914 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, 448-2500.

There will be performances and workshops on the arts of puppetry, mime and clownery from July 6 through 25, between 10 A.M. and 8

P.M. Weekend performances are free; weekday admission is \$2. Children's workshops are \$3.50; master workshops are \$25 (\$85 for three).

Admission to Snug Harbor, open daily from 9:30 A.M. to dusk is free.

William Floyd Estate, 20 Washington Avenue, Mastic Beach, L.I., 516-399-2030.

The National Park Service is opening this early-18th-century estate with a re-enactment of a Revolutionary War encampment on Sunday from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. The estate will be open on weekends until Labor Day, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Admission is free.

Miracle on the River Festival, Bronx River Restoration, Bronx Street and East Tremont Avenue (East 179th Street), Bronx, 933-4079.

Magic, mime, music and art workshops for children will be featured in this all-day festival Sunday to support revitalization of the river and the arts facilities and garden at nearby Restoration Park. Festivities will also be held at Burke Avenue at Bronx Park East and at Gun Hill Road near Bronx Boulevard from 10 A.M. to noon.

New-York Historical Society Exhibits, 170 Central Park West (77th Street), 873-3400.

The exhibits on the development of Grand Central Terminal, on view through Sept. 13, and of 19th-century cast-iron stoves, through Oct. 17, will be joined by a show of 19th-century women's periodicals from July 9 to Sept. 12. Museum hours are 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., Tuesday through Friday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Saturdays, and 1 to 5 P.M., Sundays. Admission for non-members is \$2; 75 cents for children.

WEEKENDER GUIDE

Sunday

FESTA IN BROOKLYN

An Italian pageant dating back 15 centuries will be enacted in Brooklyn's Williamsburg section Sunday afternoon at 2, when a boat bearing a full orchestra and a singer is carried through the streets by 150 strong men. The boat recalls the Moorish galleon that returned Paulinus, the Bishop of Nola, from captivity in Africa. The annual event is part of an 18-day Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Paulinus, which includes roving street bands, food stands, parades and floats, and continues through July 18 outside the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church, North Eighth and Havemeyer Streets. The highlight occurs July 11 from 1 to 6 P.M., when both the boat and a giglio — an 85-foot tower that also holds an orchestra and singer — "dance" through the streets. Information: 384-0223.

MUSIC AT THE WHITNEY

Summer music in the outdoor sculpture court of the Whitney Museum of American Art, Madison Avenue at 75th Street, begins Sunday with L'Arema Ensemble in an "All American" program including songs by Scott Joplin, Leonard Bernstein, Fats Waller and John Denver. The group consists of Pamela Sklar, flutist; Joseph Rutkowski, clarinetist, and David Intrator, bassoonist. Concerts will be given every Sunday from 4 to 6 P.M. through Aug. 29, and will be free with museum admission of \$2 (free for those younger than 12 when accompanied by an adult, for college students and the elderly).

BRONX RIVER CELEBRATION

A monthlong effort to clean up the Bronx River will culminate Sunday in a "Miracle on the River" Festival in the borough's West Farms section. The miracle didn't occur in one month, of course; but sponsors say it is taking place. The focus in June was on a vest-pocket Restoration Park, a community garden and a street-level storefront gallery, all in a one-block area. The festivities — theater, music, dance, poetry, jugglers, magicians and mime — will take place in and around 1087 East Tremont Avenue at Bronx Street. Information: 589-6379.

Eleanor Blau

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1982

Events Today

Fest of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Paulinus: Parade, bands, food; 2 P.M.; North Eighth and Havemeyer Streets, Brooklyn.
George Seufferd Band Concert: 3 P.M.; Forest Park, Queens.

Miracle on the River Festival: Celebration of restoration of Bronx River, with music and entertainment; Bronx Street and East Tremont Avenue, Bronx.

Harbor Festival 1982: Festivities begin with 50-gun salute by Veteran Corps of Artillery of the State of New York in 1812 uniforms; 10:30 A.M.; Battery Seawall, Battery Park. Other events throughout the day at Battery Park include lifeboat races, air-sea rescue demonstrations, dance and music programs.

Independence Day Parade: Noon; Bowling Green north on Broadway to City Hall.

Macy's fireworks display: 9:15 P.M.; Upper Bay and Statue of Liberty vicinity. Score will be broadcast on WNBC-AM from 9:15 to 9:45 P.M.

Junked cars removed from river

Phase II of Bronx River Restoration's "Project Uplift," the removal of nine remaining, abandoned vehicles from the River Corridor, took place last Wednesday, at the East 174 Street bridge and Bronx Boulevard.

The operation involved numerous city agencies and the direct assistance of the National Guard. The New York Air National guard provided a special helicopter to handle those vehicles in the water. The National Guard brought 5-ton wreckers as part of an additional land support unit.

Bronx River Restoration's new executive director, Dennis Paul, indicated that nine vehicles are involved; 5 in the River, two on its banks, and two on the adjacent land parcel. Project Uplift is a direct attempt to deliver an important positive message concerning the Bronx.

Phase I of Project Uplift took place July 2 when five vehicles were removed from the River Corridor in the Gunhill Road area. Many of these vehicles had long been a reality of the neighborhood landscape. Therefore, it was no surprise that

the helicopter lift of a vehicle from the hike-and-bike path drew cheers from the large crowd. One local resident remarked that she was glad to see something finally

being done, as her car removed from under the Bronx Boulevard bridge had been there for years.

A total of 14 cars were removed during Project Uplift.

Daily News, Saturday, July 3, 1982



TOM CUNNINGHAM DAILY NEWS

Turning the tide for Bronx River?

A New York air national guardsman secures a cable around one of at least 15 autos abandoned in the Bronx River. A river restoration group sought the help of Rep. Mario Biaggi (D-Bronx) and Mayor Koch for a cleanup of the body of water. Guardsmen moved in yesterday to airlift debris from the river.

Bronx River Restoration celebrates 'miracle'

The Bronx River Restoration will E. Tremont Ave. at Bronx St. (E. 179 garden and Restoration Park and hold a "Miracle on the River Festival," St., one block east of the elevated preview a street-level storefront gal-on Sunday, July 4, as the final event in subway line). The Bronx Arts En-
lery, all located within a one-block; its month long river clean-up effort. semble will perform at all three sites. radius. The exhibit will show a history A full day of
festivities will take Other entertainment will include music of the Bronx River Restoration

place at three locations along the magic, mime and poetry readings. Project, as well as display various river: Gunhill Road at Bronx Blvd.; At the E. Tremont Ave. site,
artists' work. Burke Ave. at Bronx Park East; and dignitaries will dedicate a community A highlight of the festival will be the

Miracle Mural. Children will paint river-related pictures during scheduled art workshops. The pictures will be hung along the mural wall, and two will be selected to be enlarged onto the mural.

The eight-year-old revitalization program was stepped up during the month of June, designated New York State Rivers Month. Riverdalian Dennis Paul, the new executive director of the Bronx River Restoration, is trying to obtain a helicopter to pull out abandoned vehicles along the river corridor.

Volunteers have helped clear out weeds; more help is needed to remove silt from a half-mile segment of the River Hike-and-Bike Path. Work on the path and Restoration Park has been slowed because of funding cuts, but boy scouts, other youths and area residents

CO-OP CITY TIMES / Saturday, JULY 3. 1982

are continuing the work. 'More volunteers and contributions are need

'Miracle on the River Festival'

ed to further the project.

The Fourth of July Miracle on the River Festival, originally to be held at Bronx Steel and East Tremont Avenue (East 179th Street), has been extended to two additional locations north of this site: Burke Avenue at Bronx Park East and Gunhill Road at Bronx Boulevard, From 10 a.m. to noon tomorrow, entertainment will continously circulate among the three locations. A magician, a juggler, mimes, a poet and the Bronx Arts Ensemble Chamber Music Trio will rotate among the three sites, luring spectators to (he events to be held all afternoon.from noon to 4 at the main site (Bronx Street and East

Tremont Avenue). Mini-art workshops for children will also be held at the three locations, leading up to the final art workshop and contest at the main site, where all entries will be displayed on the Miracle Mural and the winning paintings will be permanently exhibited. For a minimum donation everyone is eligible to enter other contests: a boat race involving building and sailing model boats, a fishing contest where prizes will be awarded for the longest fish and the heaviest fish caught, and chess and checker contests. To top off the afternoon, a jazz group will entertain and refreshments will be off red for

sale. A festive day is planned to people of all ages. Many volunteers of the surrounding communities are contributing their efforts to making this miracle happen, and for those who can pledge some time to the contined development of the Bronx River Restoration, sign-up sheets will be available for membership in "Friends of the River" and its ongoing activities. Dennis Paul, the new Executive Director of the Bronx River Restoration and a longtime Bronx resident, is actively working with the community to create a miracle in transforming and expanding the quality of the Bronx Hiver^ as well as the lives of the people who draw inspiration from the idyllic setting.

With government assistance, Paul is attempting to obtain a helicopter to pull out abandoned vehicles along the river corridor. Volunteers have helped clear out weeds: additional assistance is

needed to remove sut from at '2-mile segment of the River Hike-and-Bike Path. Due to funding cutbacks, work on the path and Restoration Park has been stalled for some time. The East Bronx Regional Boy Scouts, underemployed youths and area residents are all pitching in to make the miracle happen.

BRONX PRESS-REVIEW July 1, 1982

'Miracle on River Festival' To Be Celebrated Sunday

The "Miracle on the River enting a history of the Restora- Festival" will be opened at 10 tion, as well as artists' works.