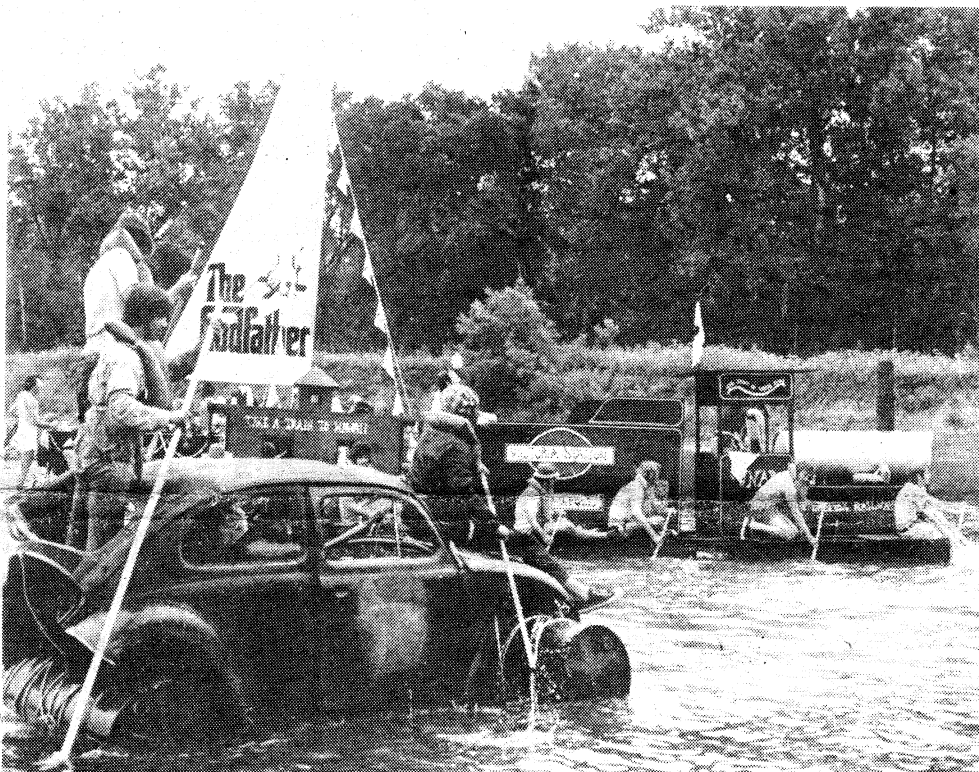




# White River's raft race — a slow boat to Broad Ripple



Rain failed to wash away the enthusiasm of 8,000 rafters of 30,000 spectators Sunday as the second annual raft race moved on a slick course from the Ladings Apartments to Broad Ripple Park.

More than 1,152 home made rafts, boats and pontoons carried some 8,000 participants along the 2.5 mile White River course that sponsoring WNAP radio pokesman described as "slick because of the heavy rain falling on the seventh turn."

But the drizzles didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the more than 30,000 persons who logged Keystone Ave., and Broad Ripple Park in hopes of glimpsing the contest.

Due to technical trouble, results weren't available at press time. Radio station spokesmen said they hoped to determine the winners by Wednesday afternoon.

Commercial entries drew the most comment. Victoria Station entered a locomotive carrying 20 or 30 people. It was painted "Take a train to Hawaii," and named "Spirit of White River." The Godfather's entry featured a large bar in the middle, with girls in bikinis waiting on stools. Friday's raft was less adventurous this year than last year, but was obviously more seaworthy.

Shark raft themes were popular, especially one molded figure of a shark with its mouth open and gaping teeth draped with nasty red stuff. One man nestled inside and kicked to propel himself down river.

Photos by Valerie Waters

