

# THE SKAGIT COUNTY COURIER

December 2, 1909

## SKAGIT RIVER BREAKS LOOSE

Heavy Chinook winds send volumes of water down from Cascades into Skagit County towns causing much damage  
**COUNTY TOWNS ARE FLOODED**

Reports which are constantly coming in from the neighboring towns establish the fact that all of them have been more seriously affected by the flood than has Sedro-Woolley.

### DISASTER IN BURLINGTON

The water broke the dykes guarding Burlington and almost the entire town was flooded. In the residence districts the water was over eight feet deep in places.

In the southeastern part of the town a family was driven out of their home and forced to seek safety on the roof. A row boat was sent to their rescue and they were conveyed to a place further removed from danger. All the stores, with one exception, were under at least a foot of water. The main street in Burlington will be in a bad condition for months to come. Before the flood it was not in the best of shape and now it is a veritable sea of mud.

All day Tuesday the water flowed across the main line of the Great Northern and cut ... The water surrounding the G.N. depot was four or five feet deep. Many feet of track were washed out on both sides of the depot.

### W. MT. VERNON UNFORTUNATE

... from Mount Vernon indicates that the most serious damage done in that vicinity was in West Mount Vernon. Mount

Vernon proper was many feet below the surface of the river but there was little current on that side and the dikes held. On the west side however, the river made up the west it failed to do on the east. Early Tuesday morning the dikes protecting West Mount Vernon were broken in many places and the raging waters poured in, carrying ... fences and buildings before them. Horses, stock and other animals were drowned by the score. There have been many rumors afloat that human lives were lost there, but these reports have not yet received conclusive substantiation.

### FLATS ARE FLOODED

On the flats west of Mt. Vernon and Burlington, farm buildings were surrounded by water and people driven from their homes or forced to seek shelter in the second story or on the roof. Over a hundred head of horses and cattle are reported lost. A view of the flats, obtained on Tuesday afternoon from the hill near Clear Lake showed that, from Burlington westward as far as the eye could see, the country was one vast expanse of water.

### TRACKS GONE AT STERLING

At Sterling the water was four or five feet deep. The county road was washed out for a distance of 150 yards. At the Jarvis place part of the orchard and front yard was

washed into the river. The G.N. track has been moved from its original position for a considerable distance and is all twisted out of shape. Wednesday evening a hand car was sent over the rails from Sedro-Woolley to within a mile of Burlington and the logs and other debris removed from the track. It is expected that traffic can be resumed by Friday evening.

### **STERLING CUT-OFF**

It is now practically certain that the long talked of cut off at the Sterling bend has been put through.

On Tuesday it seemed as though the main body of water was moving directly west from the draw bridge instead of bending to the right and striking off toward Sterling. It is possible though, that when the river has reached its normal stage, that the current will not be strong enough to remain in the new channel, and will again be deflected into its old course.

### **CLEAR LAKE AND VICINITY**

Every house at Clear Lake with the exception of the few located on the hillside west of the track, contained at least two feet of water. North of the depot a half mile of track was washed in the ditch and the same thing was done to a quarter mile of the track on the south side. A box car which stood on the side track whittled to the ground as the rails slipped from beneath it. Bedall's store was undermined and for a time threatened to fall in ruins. The danger was averted by hauling in dirt and throwing it in underneath the foundation.

Many of the farmers in this vicinity drove their stock to the hills. There is hardly a fence left standing within a radius of two miles of Clear Lake and all the roads are in an impassable condition. Water was still

standing on the tracks south of Clear Lake Wednesday noon.

The valley of the Nookachamps was flooded by back water from the Skagit and the N.P. bridge at the Little mill, two miles south of Clear Lake, ruined.

Wednesday morning a pile driving outfit was sent up from Arlington on by the N.P. railway company and commenced driving piles at this point. Trains will probably be able to pass over the Nookachamps sometime Thursday.

### **THE UP RIVER COUNTRY**

Details received from the up-river country are so far very meager. It is known that the depot at Hamilton stood in five feet of water and that the whole town was in dire straits. At Lyman conditions were not quite so bad, although there was some water in the main streets and in the business houses. The track between Lyman and Minkler is in very bad shape, most of it being in the ditch.

The bridge at Wilson's creek above Skiyou, was washed out and the one at Hanson's creek, on this side, displaced. The water was so deep along the Skiyou road that a man on horsesback coming down had to swim his steed for almost two miles. Much stock has been drowned, particularly on the island.