

The Clear Lake News



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FLOOD SUBMERGES CLEAR LAKE AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY; COLD SNAP NEXT

Saturday, December 10, the Skagit River started on another one of its rampages. The Chinook winds started blowing Saturday night about 8 o'clock and blew constantly until in the early hours Monday morning. A report came from the south that Silvana was under water late Sunday afternoon and the Skagit River was at the 46 foot mark at the Clear Lake-Sedro-Woolley bridge at 6 o'clock Sunday, and was going strong. Monday afternoon reports reached Clear Lake that Concrete was flooded and the water was going into Hamilton. At 2 o'clock Monday afternoon the Clear Lake Lumber Co. shut down their plant and began to remove their electric motors. A dike was thrown up around the Skagit Club, Skagit Theatre and the Silcox Hotel. The purpose of this was to save the maple floor of the Skagit Theatre. The farmers began to drive their stock on the hills around Clear Lake in the early evening Monday and Bill Shauger started to attain a nice varied assortment of automobiles and stock on his place at this time. At 11 o'clock Monday night the water head reached the fireplace at the Clear Lake Lumber Co.'s power plant and the fire was put out. Monday night was clear with the moon shining and the temperature which was around 65 until this time, began to fall. All Monday evening large crews of men were working about Clear Lake putting things in shape. The water still continued to

rise Tuesday morning until about 11 o'clock. At this time the water started to recede on the west side of the N.P. right of way, but the lake side rose until about 3 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock word reached Clear Lake from Ruby Creek that the river had dropped four feet. Tuesday afternoon it was an assured fact that the flood had reached its height. From this time on the water started to go down. Great rumors reached Clear Lake Monday night and all day Tuesday. Some said Mr. Frank Eldred was drowned, others that his home or the bridge or the other barn had floated away. Most of these rumors later proved to be false. Frank Eldred is still with us and most of our bridges and homes are still here, even though they did get very wet.

Sep. Irvin brought his family out from his place in a rowboat and had quite a time doing it. Bert Bjorling got a bit wet but states that his farm is in fine shape and that his losses are small. The Holmquist Bros, lost a new barbed wire fence and were dampened somewhat. Fred Johnson lost about an acre of his cabbage crop and all of his household goods. His land was covered with logs and driftwood. Grover Duvall's place was all under water. Mr. A.W. Kane lost a bull and August Brander suffered from the flood. A. J. Demons had water on his place, as did A.L. Young but was not in the main current of the river.

Great damage was done by the river from Rockport to the Sound. In the upper river country several small mill buildings were washed away. Angus McLeod lost his shingle kiln full of shingles. The farmers will all suffer a severe loss and at this time things will be very hard to get unto shape. The north side of the river was hurt the worst. At Sterling and Burlington water covered all the land except the hills. The stores and streets were flooded with three feet of water.

A great many farmers in the flats lost the grain they had stored in their barns, and also the hay. Millions of dollars will be lost in Skagit County and it will be some time before things can be readjusted.

The train service was blocked until Friday night, when the N.P. again resumed operations. The G.N. detoured their trains over the N.P. route.

The following week, after the warm winds and floods, Skagit County and the entire Puget Sound country experienced some of the coldest weather in years. Much of the flood water that was left standing Saturday was frozen on the farm lands and added to the many difficulties that had been suffered. Large cakes of ice were seen floating down the Skagit River, many pipes were frozen, cold, fierce winds, kids skating on small ponds—all of this was experienced. Some years it seems like things all come in a group but all in all we ought to be thankful we have so even a temperature year around, even if the sudden changes do cause a lot of cold feet and colds in the head and throat. She's some country, boys!