

LOWER VALLEY FARMERS KEEP DIKES SECURE

Constant Patrolling Wins
Over Turbulent Waters
Of Rising Skagit

3 BREAKS REPORTED

Damage Is Comparatively Small
—Samish Floods Northern
Part of County

Combined efforts of more than 1500 lower Skagit valley residents to effect a 60-hour constant patrol of the river dikes during the highest stages of the Skagit proved effective despite the fact that the river rose to the peak attained during the flood of 1922.

Stronger dikes constructed during the past year by the dike districts also proved instrumental in checking the turbulent waters that rose to within inches of the dike tops Saturday afternoon.

The Samish River, which went on a rampage early last week, caused the most damage in the county, flooding hundreds of acres of land and causing residents to take temporary quarters elsewhere. Schools were closed in many sections of the county because of the water. At Edison damages to the school's heating system necessitated a two weeks' shutdown.

Worked Night, Day

Patrolling on the Skagit dikes started Thursday evening and many farmers worked continuously until Sunday morning. Women assisted by bringing food and warm dry clothing to the men. Some women joined in with the men and worked shifts on the dikes proper.

Thousands of sand bags were used to reinforce the weakening walls, but the efforts were rewarded as no serious damage was done. Three breaks were reported Saturday just as the river started to recede. The largest of the breaks occurred northeast of Burlington when a portion of the Sedro-Woolley-Burlington dike road gave way. The water found its way into Varney Slough and was slowly carried off by way of North Avon into the bay without much damage.

Lower Flats Inundated

Two breaks were reported south of Mount Vernon, one at the Fresh Water Slough and the other between Brown and Dry sloughs. Many farms in the lower flats were inundated by these breaks.

The county recordings of the river taken each day last week show the unusual speed in which the river rose. On Sunday the reading was 7 feet, Monday and Tuesday 10 feet, Wednesday 16 feet, Thursday morning 17 feet, Friday 23 feet, Saturday 28 feet.

By Sunday morning the river was down to 25 feet, Monday it was 21 and this noon it was 15.