

Skagit Flood Causes Big Damage

Hamilton, Conway Areas Hard Hit; Roads Washed Out

Reaching a near record crest of 28.2 feet at Mt. Vernon at 5 a.m. Sunday, the Skagit river's worst flood in several years, caused many thousands of dollars damage to highways and property, and left many families temporarily homeless. The Hamilton area was the worst hit, east of Sedro-Woolley and the Fir-Conway district south of Mt. Vernon was almost completely covered. Hundreds of men worked on the dikes and levees and once again Mt. Vernon and Burlington were spared from a bad flood.

The county engineer reports that the Burlington road will be ready for use Saturday night. All roads up river are passable and most of the roads in the Nookachamps area are again in use.

Following very heavy rains and warm weather the Skagit began to rise rapidly Friday. On Friday the river rose from 19 to 20 feet between 8 a.m. and noon.

By Saturday all traffic to the upper Skagit valley was cut off at Lyman where the road was under water. Another stretch of road above Marbelmount was flooded and the road to Newhalem closed. The Concrete ferry cut adrift early Sunday came to rest on a sand bank about half mile downstream.

Traffic on the Clear Lake road was closed at 11 a.m. Saturday as a log jam threatened destruction of the bridge. Later the road was covered with water. A reported "kink" in the bridge was investigated and the Skagit county engineers and no damage, to the extent of a "kink," could be found.

Highway 99 still has 20 inches of water on it and estimates range from three to ten days before it will be dry again. The highway department hopes to have some heavy traffic going over it soon, though

Burlington

The river broke through the railroad embankment east of Burlington, which acts as a dike, and tore through the Dollar road, cutting the PUD 14-inch main serving Burlington. The Burlington system was tied into the Mount Vernon line, and most of Burlington was served although the people east of town were without water for some time.

The water also washed away some of the highway and the county engineers reported that they expected it to be repaired sometime Saturday evening.

Hamilton Flooded

Hamilton was flooded for the second straight year, but fortunately many of the residents had more warning about the coming high water. About midnight Friday night the water began to come over the top of the dike and continued to rise until approximately 2,000 acres in the Birdsvew-Hamilton area were covered with water.

A crew of men lead by O. J. Mast, transportation director of the Sedro-Woolley school district, removed everything from the basement of the Hamilton school house including desks.

It has been reported that many of the people in Hamilton were going to sell out and move, but nearly all of the for sale signs seen on homes now had been up before the flood. The oldtimers who had been going through floods for years take it in stride. Although the regular property damage in homes and stores seemed less the roads in the area apparently have suffered more than in past years.