

THE CONCRETE HERALD

Formerly the Hamilton Herald Established Nov. 23, 1901. Oldest Paper in the Upper Skagit.

February 15, 1951

FLASH FLOODS DO GREATEST DAMAGE HERE

RIVER RISES TO CUT OFF TRAFFIC BUT CREEKS GO WILD TO CUT HIGHWAYS

Along with the rest of the county the upper Skagit watched the flood waters recede Sunday and then began the new week by trying to calculate the amount of damage done. This time it was not the river that caused the most grief for residents of this area, but the quick run-off of water from the mountains that brought every creek to river size and made new streams where there were none before.

These streams caused slides, dug out roads, damaged property and generally disrupted the valley. At the same time the river flooded Hamilton, all lower sections along the river from Sedro-Woolley to Marblemount and cut off all travel to outside points.

Road Damage

Besides the high water at Hamilton, traffic was further blocked by the washout of a fill about a mile east of Hamilton on the main highway. Further damage was done at Birdsvie where a log jam at the railroad bridge sent Grandy Creek down the highway.

Only damage to the new stretch of highway from the Rock Cut to Concrete was done when a culvert filled up near the Ebing place and piled gravel onto the highway.

At the Earl Robertson place in Grasmere a small stream went out of control and across the road.

Jackman Creek at Van Horn was also too high for its banks, so took off across the road east of bridge, flooding over the flat from the store to the mill.

The upper valley road was blocked for a time when a huge slide covered the highway, railroad and ferry road at Faber, following the course of the former slide. Another slide covered the road near the Sauk store, which also was surrounded with rushing water when the stream there swelled out of its usual course and covered the entire countryside. A huge slide from the hill behind Sauk helped divert the stream, but did not come far enough to damage any homes.

Rockport also had a flash flood when water poured down the mountain and swept by the Buchanan Café to wash out the road and do considerable damage to the City Light property.

Similar slides and washouts are reported in all parts of the valley.

No report has yet been received from the Darrington road and the Sauk valley.

Concrete Ferry Goes Out

The Concrete ferry, which had been tied up during the high water, was broken loose when a slide hit the ferry, breaking the

rope that held it to the bank. It shot into the river where the current broke the cables. No one was on the ferry at the time.

The ferry lodged in the trees at the rivers' edge above The Dalles. It was towed back to the landing Tuesday and will be in service as soon as repairs are completed.

Cascade Road A Shambles

Commissioner Wiseman made a trip up the Cascade road Wednesday as far as the five mile board and reports great damage from the quick run-off. In the distance he was able to travel one bridge was gone completely (No. 567) and another (No. 569) had only the main stringers left. Slides of rock have blocked the road in many places. Further damage is anticipated all the way to Mineral Park. Wiseman and engineers will complete the inspection to the end of the road this week end.