

THE CONCRETE HERALD

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5 IN. RAIN BRINGS FLOOD-SLIDES

The storm that struck the Northwest Sunday found the upper Skagit valley all soaked up and waiting. And as the skies poured a total of 4.98 inches more water on the soggy hills during the day things began to happen. Water went over the roads at many points from Lyman to Newhalem, slides began popping across the roads as the evening wore on. A slide on the Van Horn Cut finally shut off up-river power to add total darkness to the difficulties of the residents battling surface water and slides.

Worst hit was Rockport, where an unusual combination of slide and water sent tons of rock and gravel down the main road and over yards and streets throughout the hillside community. At Concrete one home was flooded out, other narrow escapes were recorded from slides.

Official figures from the cement plant weather station gave the rainfall the past week as 11.85 inches, which plus the snowfall already on the ground would probably mean close to 14 inches of water. The record lists 1.19 last Tuesday; 1.31 Wednesday; .96 Thursday; 2.24 on Friday; none Saturday; but 4.98 inches on Sunday!

The town of Rockport suffered the worst of any communities in the valley with the slide and subsequent torrent of water that poured over the highway on the hill right at the intersection of the road leading to Presentin's store.

A small slide off the slop of Sauk mountain came down about 7:15 Sunday evening. This was followed by the tremendous

volume of surface water from the rain and the result was a river of sand, mud, rocks and trees pouring down over the highway. Much of the flow went directly down the road to the Presentin store, spilling both ways into yards and around homes as it sought the lower levels.

Diversion by the gravel bar piling up on Highway 17-A sent other streams both ways - down the main highway past Benton's store and over the bank on the upper side.

Strangely enough, no serious damage was done to homes or building and noone was hurt, but nearly all the residents face the task of digging out their yards and behind buildings.

Confusion was added to the wild scene when power failed and water lines were taken out.

SHOVEL ALMOST COVERED

Work was started immediately Monday morning to clear away the six to eight feet of graven bar formed on the state highway. After working all day and barely gaining on the material still coming down, the shovel was parked near the stream flow Monday night. By daylight Tuesday the stream had filled in around the shovel with gravel almost up to the cab and another shovel had to start digging it out.

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Damage was so widespread from both slides and water that no complete inventory of

cost to highway department, county or private individuals can be totaled.

Flooded basements were normal for people who had basements with any possibility of surface water getting in. All streams in the valley were full to overflowing and smaller depressions everywhere served to aid the run off or catch the flow.

In Concrete the stream at the east end of town crammed its culvert with debris and overflowed toward the Middleton home. Water filled the sunken orchard and came over the road in front of the home, holding several feet of water in the house itself.

In central Concrete the school field was flooded by water from the small creek that normally flows in a pipe under the field. This same water overflowed in Mill addition and down the paved street toward to river.

Water from the side hill caused a small slide behind the former high school building and this send water into the basement of the building and the grade school gym.

SLIDE OFF CROFOOT HILL

The Stadlman home in Crofoot addition narrowly missed being the target for a small slide that came from the top of the hill, piling mud and trees across the old road and into the Stadlman garden plot just missing the garage.

In east Concrete several slides occurred. One was on the Puget Sound power house road just about the Baker bridge; another at the point of the intersection of the Lake Shannon road and highway 17-A. This slide almost caused a serious accident, striking and damaging a car driven by Nick Snider.

Other slides occurred near the Middleton home, and at several points along the highway from Concrete to Rockport. One large slide blocked traffic on the Van Horn cut Monday morning. Other smaller ones only slowed down traffic.

STREAM AT VAN HORN

Sunday night Jackman Creek overflowed its bank above the highway and cut a new route down through the Harris place and into the Van Horn Mill pond. Water was almost a foot deep at one time, strewing rock and logs as a further traffic hazard. The mill pond outlets was opened to release the flood waters.

At Jackman Creek Bridge the recent dredging proved a blessing as it kept water from the homes below the bridge. However, swirling eddies from the log jams on the bridges cut away about half of the road on the west approach.

Dry Creek, just west of McGovern's store at Saul again jammed its culvert and sent the extra flood water over the road. A section of the highway was cut away on the river side.

Above Sauk hill the stream at the Hornback place covered the highway with piles of gravel and sand, but no permanent damage was done.

CAR SNAPS POLE

A car driven by Donald Ammons, 18, of this city, snapped a utility pole on highway 17 about ten milles northeast of Marblemount last Thursday evening. Ammons was unhurt.

CAUGHT BY SLIDE

Cylde (Nick) Snider, who handles the Times paper route for the valley, narrowly escaped serious injury Friday evening when his little Volkswagen was struck by the slide coming down just count of the Baker bridge here. He was coming towards town when the debris tumbled down onto the car. Nick received face cuts, the car about \$75 in damage.