

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1955

Level of Skagit River Goes Up After 4-Inch Rain Hits Area

Crest May Come Tomorrow Morning

Get out those hip-waders and row boats again, folks. You may need them again by 8 a. m. tomorrow morning. The river forecast center in Portland predicted this forenoon that the Skagit River will crest at 27 feet at Mount Vernon by 8 a. m. Friday.

"The center hit it right on the nose last week for the crest on Wednesday when it hit 23.7 feet at Mount Vernon and we expect it will not be too far off for tomorrow," said W. R. Whitnall of the Skagit County Engineer's office.

Whitnall explained that an electronic brain machine at the river forecast center in Portland takes all available information on river level, snow, and rainfall and compares it against past records, then gives the prediction.

At 9 a. m. this morning the river at Concrete had reached a gauge reading of 29.17 feet and was rising at the rate of a foot an hour.

Hits High Mark

The flood last week reached its high mark at 35 feet there. A high mark of around 37 or 38 feet is expected at Concrete tonight by 6 o'clock.

The temperature at Concrete was 45 degrees before noon and low-lying snow at Rockport

was the highest amount in a 24-hour period since records were started in July, 1949.

The freezing level was at 9,000 feet this morning.

"The dike at Mount Vernon withstood 28.2 feet in 1951, but it was right up to the top and lapping over. We should still have a foot or two to spare at tomorrow morning's peak," commented engineer Whitnall.

Meanwhile Fir Island residents, who still have 2,000 acres of farm land under water, were praying that the fill in the break of the Fresh Water Slough dike would hold against another high river. The 150-foot hole was plugged last night by a dredge brought up from Seattle that pumped fill material into the breach.

Move Cattle

Farmers of the Nookachamps Valley, who haven't had a chance to dry out from last week's flood, were preparing to move their cattle and machinery to high ground for the second time in two weeks.

The office of Skagit County Sheriff Harold Hinshaw was again mustering emergency equipment and personnel to assist possible flood victims.

And, as if the Skagit Valley didn't have enough problems from mother nature, high winds