

Engineers Get Plans For North Fork Span

Skagit County has submitted for approval its plans for the new fixed bridge on the north fork of the Skagit River to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Seattle.

Col. Norman A. Matthias, district engineer, announced today that his office would receive comments and objections on the proposed structure until April 16.

However, the colonel probably already is aware of possible objections as a result of a meeting held Feb. 14 in Mount Vernon to which interested parties were invited. It was brought out then that certain river craft such as large dredges would not be able to clear the proposed bridge if it were built.

The site of the planned bridge is three-eighths of a mile downstream of the existing highway bridge across the north fork of the Skagit, and the bridge, if built, will provide a minimum vertical clearance of 120 feet, normal to channel.

In comparison, the existing drawbridge provides for navigation a vertical clearance of nine feet in a closed position, and a horizontal clearance of 80 feet. Of course, when the bridge is open a vessel of any height may pass through it.

The application from Skagit County to the Army for permission to build the bridge, as required by the General Bridge Act of 1946, shows that the earlier suggestions to lower the height of the fixed span bridge to below 40 feet to save construction costs have been dropped.

The proposed height now will allow the river boats using the river to continue their trips to Mount Vernon.

Matthias said the decision as to whether or not the plans will be approved must rest primarily upon the effect the proposed work will have on navigation and/or flood control.

Rock Strengthens Section of Dike

A 3,000 foot long section of dike on the east side of the Skagit River between Mount Vernon and Conway is now stronger by some 14,000 cubic yards of rock, the Skagit County engineer's office reported today.

County Engineer H. O. Walberg said the rip-rapping job in Dike District Three headed by Daniel Sundquist was expected to be finished today. Weymouth and Wheeler, Seattle contractors, did the work for Dike District No. 3 as part of the district and county's continuing flood control program.