

# Washington rivers flood

## Skagit River level drops during night

The Skagit Valley faces no serious flood threat, despite the chance of more rain tomorrow, county officials said today.

Nookachamps Creek is over its banks but flooding no farms or homes. Some up-county roads were covered with water this morning, but all streams in the upper Skagit Valley were falling.

The Skagit River apparently crested in Mount Vernon at mid-morning at 22 feet. At Concrete the crest passed before midnight. Readings at the Dalles Bridge showed 25.7 feet at 8 a.m., a drop of two feet since midnight.

THE COUNTY engineers office reported that the Sauk River left its banks and covered the Concrete - Darrington Road between Concrete and the Forest Service bridge over the Sauk. The Arlington-Darrington road was also under water, isolating the Snohomish County community of Darrington from the outside world.

Skagit County generally fared better, with the Nookachamps Creek the worst spot. Although Francis Road was closed to traffic because flood water was lapping at its edge, the creek had not covered the road by mid-morning.

In Mount Vernon city police kept a sharp eye on the Skagit River and reported these readings:

At 1 a.m., 20.7 feet; 4 a.m., 21 feet; 7 a.m., 21.7 feet; and 10 a.m., 21.6 feet.

An unofficial reading gave 22 feet at about 8:30 a.m., the probable flood crest.

Some 2.47 inches of rain fell in Concrete during the past 24 hours, with Sedro-Woolley reporting 1.37 inches and Mount Vernon 1.25 for the same period.

MORE RAIN has been predicted for late tonight or tomorrow. Some sunshine, with scattered clouds, is the order for this afternoon.

One highway accident was blamed on the heavy rains. A Mount Vernon man, Clyde E. Snider, 49, of Route 4, suffered face cuts and bruises when a large quantity of mud slid down on his small foreign car near Concrete yesterday. The State Patrol said the accident occurred at 5 p.m. on Highway 17-A just east of Concrete.

Big Lake has been steadily rising during the past three days, coming up about three feet, residents there report. Water is lapping into yards on the west side and causing docks, floats and boom logs difficulty.

Elsewhere in the state families were evacuated from lowlands along the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Rivers in Snohomish County, and the Hornish River in King County. One death, that of a Scott Paper Co. logging superintendent near Mt. Pilchuck yesterday, was blamed on the weather. Two King County men escaped drowning this morning when their car plunged into a flood ditch near Carnation.