

County's "Big Snake" Officially Measured

The mighty Skagit had itself officially measured, Monday, by the county engineer's office, at the county gauging and measuring station, at Concrete.

The county, the City of Seattle and Stone & Webster all keep a wary eye on the writhing monster, and its changes in mood are reported to Colonel Barden, district engineer of the U. S. War Department and G. H. Parker, district engineer of the U. S. Geological Survey, in the form of cryptic, tabulated statistics.

The county engineer found Monday that 56,200 second feet of water were passing its observation station. This means that 56,200 cubic feet of water flowed past the gauge every second. If this

were deposited in Mount Vernon for a short time, the Leviathan could easily steam right up First street, though she'd probably have a tight squeeze between the buildings.

Sometimes—when Skagit's feeding grounds, up in the snows, are low and the "grazing" is sparse—the big snake gets real lean and sluggish. The leanest period in the records of the engineer's office was when only 7,500 second feet of water registered.

The most menacing period on record was in 1921, when the snake lashed its tail and ran amuck, and a wide area was flooded. That time 240,000 second feet of water raced by the observation station.

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