

THE MOUNT VERNON ARGUS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1943

Upper River Erosion Work Hoped For Yet This Fall

Final soundings were taken yesterday afternoon preparatory to the proposed driving of piling dolphins on the upper Skagit river in an effort to slow down flood currents and curtail erosion, County Engineer H. O. Walberg reported.

The engineer hopes to set rows of dolphins extending outward from the river banks at erosion points before the late fall and early winter high water season sets in. The project will be referred to the War Department for approval as soon as maps for which data is now being assembled in the field is completed.

Survey crews are at work in the Utopia, Sikyou and Buchanan districts collecting this data, which is being transferred to the maps as rapidly as it is received at the engineer's office.

The new approach to the erosion project fits in with future plans for river bank protection, Walberg said. Use of dolphins to catch debris and bring about deposit of silt was first tried in the Avon diking district nearly 34 years ago. Today, he said, the river has completely filled in a bad wash that occurred in 1909.

If the War Department approves the upper river project quickly, the dolphins can be driven before flood time. Arrangements already have been made for an adequate supply of piling, Walberg said.