

THE MOUNT VERNON ARGUS

5-29-47

Argus Publishing Company

STEPHEN C. MERGLER — Editor and Publisher

It Could Happen

This week's high stage of the Skagit river ought to remind us that rivers long kept in their places have a way of springing surprises. It's been so long since the Skagit went on any serious rampage, near Mount Vernon, that it's all too easy for the city to remain complacent about its defenses. It's all too easy to ignore the widening gaps in the old piling bullwarks to "the dike", to forget those feverish days and nights of other flood seasons when townsmen and countrymen fought the river as a real and threatening adversary, with shovel and sandbag.

Much more of the Skagit basin's timber went to the mills during the war years, and it's still going. Which means that rains and melting snows reach the stream more rapidly than ever before. Isn't it about time to look over our river defenses once more and plug the little gaps before they become destructive torrents?

Costly as it would appear, reenforcing the Skagit's banks against encroachment upon the city would surely be economy in the long run. Threefold benefits could be obtained from improving the city's waterfront: Protection against the river, more parking space and converting an eyesore of rotten piling and rubbish dumps into a beauty spot. Would you like to see the city's planning commission and the city council go to work on the problem of how this needed improvement can be accomplished? Tell them so!