

Skagit County Times

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THE RIVER

Gives People of valley Another Scare

Big Chinook Starts Things Doing But Quits With But Little Damage Done

There may have been a time when a chinook wind was not an unwelcome thing in this country, but that was a long time before November, 1909. Since then when a chinook blows every gentleman holds his breath. Last year the rainy season began in the low lands and -nows in the hills much earlier than those periods have come this year, and apparently were more continuous in duration than this fall. Besides, this fall there have occurred several small fry thaws which led to the inference at least that no unusual flood in the river need be expected. Last Saturday night, however, when Hugo Bauman called down the valley from Rockport warning all men to look out and a warm wind was blowing like a hurricane here in the valley and continued over Sunday, it brought back to all citizens a tinge of that old 1909 feeling.

Sunday afternoon the water in the river began to rise at the rate of about 5 inches an hour and by midnight had increased to 8 inches or more an hour. Things began to look serious and the minds of men were filled with apprehension. At that time "ignorance" was at least past bliss. Ignorance of the fact that there is now (or was then) more snow in the mountains than at a similar time for years past was bliss indeed. Ignorance of just how long that chinook would continue made up the bulk of the uneasy side of the situation. However the wind subsided during the early hours of Monday morning, but the water continued to rise and spread until in the early hours of Tuesday morning the maximum was reached, and by 8 o'clock the fall had begun. A considerably lowered temperature assisted to this.

The rampage of water in the Skagit was amply aided and abetted by those in side streams, each of which added a liberal quota to the burdens of her own which she carried. Sunday night up valley train was stopped at Concrete on account of the bridge over Jackson creek, near Van Horn, being washed out. This is the most serious mishap so far reported from east of us in the valley. In Sterling Bend where last year the G. N. tracks were moved back from the river bank, and where subsequent rises have washed away the river banks right up to the tracks, and rock fills were made, the waters of this rise came right up and again dallied with Jim Hill's iron.

At Silvana, on the G. N. line in Snohomish county, the bridge over the Stilaguamish river was carried out, cutting this section of the country off from Everett and the G. N. coast line by that route. This will close traffic over that line until the bridge is repaired, which will possibly take two weeks or more.

Trains over the G. N. in the meantime will pass over the B. B. & B. C. into Bellingham from the north. From Bellingham south the G. N. will use its own tracks to Burlington and Sedro-Woolley and from Sedro Woolley to Everett will use the N. P. track. This will make Sedro-Woolley quite a railroad point for a time, there being 16 daily trains pass this point, 14 destined for the coast line and two which maintains service to Mt. Vernon.