

THE COURIER-TIMES

DECEMBER 22, 1921

SKAGIT COUNTY FLOOD LOSS ESTIMATED AT HALF MILLION DOLLARS AS MINIMUM

**MORE STORIES OF DAMAGE UP-RIVER; ROADS
WIPED OUT; FERRIES AND BRIDGES DESTROYED;
WORK OF REPAIRING FLOOD DAMAGE STARTS; NO
REPORT OF DROWNING IN ENTIRE SKAGIT FLOOD
DISTRICT; FLOOD WORST IN SKAGIT HISTORY**

While the loss to property in Skagit county, due to the flood, is estimated by the county commissioners at more than half a million dollars, only a small portion of this amount was incurred by the farmers of the county. In fact, most of the flooded land where the current was not swift, was benefited by the flooded land where the current was not swift, was benefited by the flooding and deposits of silt.

County Commissioner Dick Thompson was in the city Tuesday of this week, after going over his district. He reports many small bridges missing, roads washed out and ferries carried away. Practically all the main roads are passable now and regular train service will have been resumed by the last of the week, it is expected. The Northern Pacific has now resumed its regular schedule, but the G.N. main line trains are still routed over the Northern Pacific tracks from Kruse near Everett, north to Sedro-Woolley, from here on the G.N. Rockport branch to Burlington, and then north over the main line to Vancouver.

Damage Up River

While the people of Sauk were badly flooded, the Van Horn mill is one of the heaviest sufferers. Angus McLeod reports that the loss may run over \$15,000. This mill had its big

boom washed out, its dry kilns full of shingles carried away, and its big mill pond filled with driftwood.

When the flood struck Van Horn, the mill crew was moved into the upper story of the mill, with a quantity of provisions. The crew included twelve men and the families of some of them. The water rose to eight feet surrounding the mill, which was between two swift channels. The crew lived in this way for two days and nights.

Abe Young, who lives near Sauk, was a heavy loser. His house and a barn filled with hay and about fifteen acres of fine orchard land were washed down the river. For a mile at the lower end of the Sauk river, is a continuous jam of logs and debris. Above the White place, the whole mountain slid in, carrying road and all. Several Indians lost their houses and their little farms. The water was 52 inches high in the Sauk store and did some damage to the bottom layer of goods piled on benches and showcases.

Commissioner Thompson said that four ferries, the Lyman, Hamilton, Van Horn and Sauk ferries, were washed down stream. The wreckage of the Sauk ferry was found, but the others left for parts unknown. The river rose so high that the "dead men" holding the cables were washed out. The loss of the ferries, alone, is estimated at about \$5,000. The Sauk river has cut away the land so that it is considered

improbable if a ferry can be re-established at Sauk.

The road by the Birdsvew school house is entirely washed away, and one of the playhouses near the main school building is hanging over the water. Four or five years ago there was a beautiful picnic ground at this place. The new road and bridge at the back of the hatchery are being used.

Miles of the road up the Sauk river was washed out. Mr. Thompson is doubtful if the old route will ever be used again. At present a new trail is being cut. When a new road is built, it will probably be constructed along the hill, out of danger of the river.

The Skiyou bridge was washed down stream to the Benson bridge. Several small bridges were wrecked out but crews of men are busy repairing them. The road is open up the river as far as Marblemount, says Mr. Thompson. The river road from the veneer plant east, is a mass of logs and drift wood and other roads near the river, including part of the Burmaster road, are impassable in places.

Damage To South

The damage in the southern part of the county and on the flats cannot be estimated yet as the land is still under water. It is thought that salt water dikes on the flats have broken recently. When these are repaired, it is probable that the water will have to be pumped out.

The Dempsey logging road along the river near the Riverside bridge suffered severe losses when most of a big fill was washed out. There is still a foot of water at Conway, but this is steadily receding and the highway is now open to traffic as far to the south as Milltown.

Rescues from windows of flooded houses by friends in rowboats are being told and undoubtedly scores of people had narrow escapes from death when the flood waters surrounded their home. The full extent of the damages can only be ascertained after the flooded areas are drained. Repair work on roads and bridges, and on personal property is going forward rapidly.

Hamburg Farm Is Hard Hit By Flood

The farm of Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Hamburg on the river bank south of town, was hard hit by the flood. Mr. and Mrs. Hamburg lived for two

days in fear of their lives. The flood either washed out or covered with logs practically all of their five acres. They lost their horse and wagon, about 100 chickens, their ducks and geese, and their big garden patch was totally destroyed. The house is filled with mud. Where the chicken yard used to be is a hole 15 feet deep and the entire place is a mass of wreckage. Most of their fruit trees and berry bushes are ruined.

Mail Arrives From Miller River Wreck

Mail that was in the Miller river train wreck reached Sedro-Woolley on Wednesday. The mail has been in a dry kiln for some days, but was still damp and covered with mud. A large quantity of eastern mail was included in the bags which went into the river with the mail train.

Roads Open to Traffic

The main road up the river from Sedro-Woolley is now open to Marblemount.

Mount Vernon can be reached either by way of the Cook road and Pacific highway or via Clear Lake.

Anacortes can be reached only when the tide is low enough.

Traffic to Seattle must take the inside route by way of Clear Lake, Big Lake, McMurray and Arlington, and must go through Snohomish. The road from Cavelero's corners across the flats is not passable except in rowboats.

The Pacific highway is open from Bellingham to Milltown.

No Water at Avon

While considerable water was reported at North Avon during the recent flood the town of Avon was not touched by high water, but remained high and dry.