

# THE COURIER-TIMES

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VIEWS OF THE HIGH WATER



## BIGGEST FLOOD IN SKAGIT HISTORY SAY OLD-TIMERS

The flood of 1921 is the biggest flood in the history of the Skagit, according to old timers, who recall the floods of 1879, 1888, 1897 and on up to the big flood of 1909 and the 1917 freshet.

Mrs. Dreyer, who lives west of town, tells of the big flood of 1888, when in some places the river backed up higher than this year. She says that not so much damage was done then because there were practically no dikes and the water spread over the lowlands more gradually.

Measurements at the Dalles, near Concrete, show that the flood water this year reached a point two feet higher than at any previous time in the memory of the oldest settler. Charley Moses says that it was the biggest flood, with the biggest volume of water ever carried in the Skagit.

At Van Horn the water was  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches higher than it had ever been. In 1909 the river in the upper valley was only about two-thirds as wide as it is now. Hundreds of acres of land are being washed away every year, by both Skagit and Sauk rivers. W. A. Ellison says he has been on the upper river for 21 years and this is the biggest flood he has seen or heard old timers tell about.

Top—This photograph shows the main street in Burlington. While the water was well up on the stores, very little damage was done to the stocks of goods.

Middle—This shows the Walker residence on the east end of Fairhaven avenue in Burlington. The current undermined the house, and cut it in two. The picture shows half of the house lying on its side. Mr. Walker, an aged man, was sleeping in the upper story when the house collapsed.

Bottom—Looking up the Skagit river from the N. P. railroad bridge south of Sedro-Woolley. The bridge in the picture is the Thompson bridge and the immense amount of water pouring down the Skagit is clearly shown.