

# THE COURIER-TIMES

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## River Bank Work Saves Local Farms

EROSION PROTECTION FOR  
BURNS BAR, SKIYOU,  
UTOPIA, LYMAN

Four out of the nine projects for soil erosion protection on the Skagit river banks have been completed, Einar Nelson, head of this splendid WPA project stated today. The original appropriation for the work was \$216,600 and under Nelson's direction, a wonderful job is being done, incidentally providing a payroll of several thousand dollars a month for this district. Nelson is now working about one hundred and twenty men and would like twice as many.

The first projects to be completed were the placing of brush mat revetments along the banks of the river at the Sterling bend, and another project, a long stretch of river bank on the bend just above Burlington, which should relieve the flood danger for Burlington. The willow trees planted along the river banks, inside of the brush mats, are growing nicely, and should eliminate any erosion danger. The first project was started in January, 1936.

Project No. 8, consisting of revetment work on 4,200 feet of river bank at Utopia, was completed early this year, and should save hundreds of acres of land, threatened by the river. The crew of men is now just completing project No. 9, at the head of Skiyou slough. The slough has been filled up with rocks and cut off from the river, and 2,400 feet of the river bank strengthened with brush mats. This was one of the worst places on the river, with farmland being washed away rapidly.

The crew of men is now starting work on a most important project for Sedro-Woolley, a stretch of some 4,000 feet of river bank east of Sedro-Woolley where the river threatens to cut through at Burns bar, threatening the city water system, the Eaton farm, and other property. Part of the crew is also doing preparatory work at the project at Lyman which will protect land at that district.

## \$23,000 Ditch Here, Finished By WPA Work

DRAINS 3,200 ACRES NORTH  
OF THIS CITY; BIG HELP  
TO LOCAL FARMERS

This week brings to completion of the Sedro-Woolley ditch project, reports zone engineer A. E. Hoopes to Leslie A. Lechner, Works Progress administrator of District No. 3. This project was made necessary due to the fact that the banks of the Skagit river are higher than the adjoining land, and water standing in the fields until late in the season makes early spring planting impossible on more than 3,200 acres of farm land. District No. 14, in sponsoring this improvement project, was represented by Hugo Bauman, chairman of the board of commissioners.

The crew will be transferred to the following projects: Finn Settlement road, Skagit county flood control, Mount Vernon airport, Conway ditch and the Community sanitation projects.

The drainage project, sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, cost approximately \$23,000 to complete, and includes six and one-half miles of ditches. The drainage system starts at a point northeast of town and about a quarter of a mile from the Northern State hospital property and extends west and south, finally having its outlet in the Skagit river, two and a half miles west of Sedro-Woolley, near Sterling.

Almost a mile of the ditch has been rip-rapped with concrete from the old Dollar way pavement. For years this drainage system was the dream of D. M. Donnelly, J. C. LaPlant and others, and its completion is expected to protect the north end of town from flood dangers, and make it possible to cultivate more land adjoining the city to the north.