

# THE COURIER-TIMES

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## Skagit-Samish Flood Control Survey Planned

In the first step of an effort to curb disastrous flood and erosion damage along the Skagit and Samish watersheds, county engineers have begun work on a diagrammatic sketch which will be presented to Congressman Henry Jackson and U. S. engineering authorities who will be investigating the flood control problem in this area in the near future.

Serious erosion at points along the Skagit, and flood danger on the Samish have imperiled farms throughout the district, and agriculturists hope that such conditions can be remedied before greater damage can occur.

While the rapid erosion which was washing away farmland at Utopia has been lessened, 200 feet of land bordering the river near the mouth of Nookachamps creek have eroded, changing the course of the river and facilitating further erosion on raw banks.

Lee Wright, assistant county engineer, stated that "All along the Skagit river, banks are dissolving and new channels opening up because of erosion. Between Sedro-Woolley and Lyman, where flows have been routed from old courses and in some places have begun working back, is one of the most critical spots along the river."

Purpose of this tour of inspection is to determine whether a survey of the two watersheds can be made, with the object of acquiring an appropriation from the harbor and river committee of which Jackson is a member.

It is believed that promoters of the project will be required to prove the practicability of the project in order that the expense of a government survey will be justified.

H. O. Walberg, county engineer, stated that while costs of the program cannot be accurately determined until the survey has been made, expenditures will be much greater than could be financed by the Skagit county budget.

Problems on both the Skagit and the Samish are represented on a map now being drawn up, which will acquaint Jackson with the flood and erosion districts. Last year the Skagit rose high enough in the Nookachamps area to inundate both grazing and farm lands.

Previous surveys of the Utopia-Skiyou area have advanced the possibility of re-routing the river through Dead Man's slough, thus reducing erosion in the present channel. However, as yet no plans have been formulated for dealing with the situation in the Lyman area.