

THE COURIER-TIMES

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Rains, Rivers Bring Much Flood Damage

Bridge Washed Out, Cars Wrecked, Sewers Back Up,
As Two Inches of Rain Falls in 48 Hours,
Woman Barely Escapes Injury

A bridge was washed out, two trucks were wrecked by rushing flood waters, traffic was interrupted, rivers were swelled to flood levels and sewers backed up in the Sedro-Woolley area, as the skies opened up and dumped more than two inches of rainfall in 48 hours last week end to bring the month's rainfall to 5.97 inches. This is an inch above the average for the entire month of October.

The washout Saturday of the 240-foot wooden Gilligan (Gillam) Creek bridge and the Lyman ferry marooned some 50 families in the Day Creek area early this week, but a logging bridge owned by the Puget Sound Pulp and Timber Company is being repaired so it will be possible by the end of the week to provide transportation across the creek, County Engineer H. O. Wahlberg said. Cars are now using the lumber company bridge on a restricted basis each morning before 8:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. each evening. During the day, temporary repair work is done.

Some eight trucks of the Douglas Fir Logging Company near Day Creek were damaged by a sudden freshet which washed ton-size boulders through the camp, ripping apart bunkhouses early Saturday night.

One semi-logging truck was wrapped around a tree, another was washed over a 300-foot embankment and almost totally wrecked. Two gravel trucks were carried along even farther, but were not badly damaged. Other cars and trucks had fenders torn off, bumpers broken loose and grills smashed in.

Mrs. Mona Vaughan, cook for the logging company, miraculously escaped injury when she stepped from her sleeping quarters a moment before that part of the cookhouse was swept away by the powerful waters. No one was injured during the wash-out.

SEWERS BACK UP

Within Sedro-Woolley most trouble from the heavy rains showed up when sewers filled to capacity and backed up in many basements, including the City Hall. The Coffee Cup restaurant on Woodworth Street was forced to close early Saturday night when the drainage system was unable to carry away the water. Owner Mildred Disbrow reopened the cafe again Tuesday morning.

By Saturday night water was rushing across the Lyman road as Wiseman Creek emptied gravel in two high banks across the highway to hamper traffic and stall many a motorist.

Flood waters reached a peak of 21.6 feet about 6:00 p.m. Sunday and began receding after that.

Rising waters also chopped away more land from farm property near the Burlington bend. (During the last rainstorm two weeks ago, the Austin Lytle place lost 11 feet of land in two days, the Soil Conservation office in Sedro-Woolley said this week.)