

SKAGIT IS NEAR FLOOD STAGE AS RAINS CONTINUE

The Skagit river, swollen by a heavy deluge of rainfall last night, is expected to reach a flood crest of near 21 feet some time tonight, according to information from the Skagit County Engineers' office.

Twenty-one feet is considered a danger point as far as possible dike break-throughs are concerned, but is several feet short of the height necessary before water would spill over the levees.

Heavy Rainfall

An inch and a half of rainfall fell over the county last night raising the level of the river which already was running near bank-full from melting snows. The river at 10 o'clock this morning measured 19 feet, 9 inches by the county gauge.

The flood crest, which takes approximately 20 hours to reach Mount Vernon from the upper stretches of the Skagit and tributary rivers, is expected here this evening and the river is steadily rising in the meantime.

Immediate danger of a record flood was lessened somewhat by information from the weather bureau at Boeing field in Seattle which announced that a sharp temperature drop from 65 degrees to 45 degrees is expected tonight in the mountains.

Creek's Spill over

Several smaller streams east of here burst from their banks today and flooded some farm land. The Nookachamps creek covered several acres directly east of here.

Dams on the Skagit river have opened flood gates to let excessive water escape.

The Skagit river has been running near bank-full for the past week as a result of melting snow in the mountains due to a stretch of warm weather. Last night's torrential rains was expected to bring down additional snow from the mountains.

Members of the County Engineers office are maintaining a close check on the river today in case flood warnings need to be broadcast.