

SKAGIT VALLEY HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1961

Skagit bridge contention bone in State's teeth

The owners of five movable bridges across the Skagit River want to cross them when they come to them.

That's why the State Highway Commission, Skagit County, the Great Northern Railway and Northern Pacific Railway have asked the Army Engineers for permission to lock the bridges permanently in place.

THE APPLICATIONS were based on the fact that no commercial ships now operate on the river which cannot pass under the spans while they are closed.

In Mount Vernon opposition is shaping up to protest the fixing of the spans. Members of the industrial development committee and the Chamber of Commerce are actively seeking to have the river dredged to navigatable depths for commercial vessels, in an effort to further open up the eastern section of the county.

NONE OF the bridges have been opened since 1959. Two of them haven't budged for 14 years.

The two Highway Department bridges are in the Mount Vernon area, the Great Northern bridge is near Mount Vernon, the Northern Pacific bridge near Sedro-Woolley, and the Skagit County bridge at Fir.

The district Army Engineers office reported the applications today.
