

River makes 20 foot crest, begins drop

The Skagit River, high and muddy almost a week as the result of heavy winter rains, crested last night in Mount Vernon at 20 feet and began dropping.

High water backed up last night in the Nookachamps Creek area northeast of Mount Vernon and caused the closure of at least one road but there were no other

reports of flooding in the Skagit Valley.

CLOSED BY PATROL

The Mount Vernon-Clear Lake Road also known in parts as the Mud Lake Road, was closed by the State Patrol about 7 p.m. yesterday. The Nookachamps Creek had covered a large section of the road and adjoining farm-

land about four miles northeast of Mount Vernon.

Acting Skagit County Engineer Lloyd Johnson told the Herald last night he foresaw no danger from current high river and stream levels in the Skagit Valley.

DROPS TWO FEET

Johnson said the Skagit River had crested at 25.7 feet at Concrete early yesterday. By 7 p.m. yesterday, the river had dropped two feet at Concrete, Johnson said.

At the same hour last evening in Mount Vernon, a Moose Hall river gauge showed the Skagit at 20 feet. By midnight, the river had dropped there to 19.2 feet.

The county engineer said high water would continue along the Skagit River for several days.

FISHING OUT

Heavy winter rain and mild temperatures caused Northwest Washington rivers and streams to begin rising late last week. By the weekend, the Skagit River and other streams were high and muddy. Steelhead fishing was almost impossible, sportsmen discovered.

Temperatures in the Valley began dropping last night below the mild 40s and high 30s which had prevailed amid heavy rains for several previous nights.

FOG MOVES IN

Early today, thermometers in the central Skagit Valley stood at 36 above. Frost was expected before morning in some outlying areas.

Fog crept into the Valley last night and early today as rain ceased.

The flooded Nookachamps area in fact also was covered last night with a heavy fog blanket which made conditions doubly hazardous for motorists.