

THE CONCRETE HERALD

Formerly the Hamilton Herald Established Nov. 23, 1901. Oldest Paper in the Upper Skagit.

December 17, 1921

SKAGIT RIVER GOES ON WILD RAMPAGE; LIGHT DAMAGE HERE

HIGH WATER MARK OF 1909 IS REACHED HERE AND PASSED IN LOWER VALLEY—CITY ISOLATED FOR FEW DAYS

After being on its good behavior for four years, the Skagit River went on a rampage again Monday, and when the flood reached its crest at midnight Monday night it was found that the highest mark in the history of Concrete had been reached. The steady rain of Saturday and Sunday brought the river to flood stage Sunday night, and it was then feared that the river would go over its banks before midnight. The weather turned colder in the evening, and by midnight the river was at a standstill, and by morning had fallen about 18 inches. Early Monday forenoon the rain started again, accompanied by a Chinook wind, and the Skagit soon began to rise rapidly again, reaching its greatest height about midnight.

About three o'clock in the afternoon it went over the banks in Crofoot addition and the residents of that part of town began to move out, being taken care of at the homes of friends in the higher part of town until the flood subsided. The waters also crept up around some of the dwellings in East Concrete, and some of the residents moved out for the night. In Crofoot addition only three residences remained above the high water mark, the water being to a depth of an inch to 14 inches in the others. No particular damage was done, except for small articles outside being washed away, and the job of cleaning out the mud left by

the flood. The Vlist, Milton and Hempsenyer families lost a considerable number of chickens and several loads of wood were washed away. In East Concrete practically no damage was done.

The damage caused in this vicinity and throughout the upper valley was considerably less than during the flood of four years ago, except at Sauk, although the water was almost two feet higher than in 1917. The county roads were somewhat damaged, and the ferries at Van Horn and Sauk were washed away. At Sauk the water was from four to six feet deep in the store and residences, and the total loss is heavy. Much damage and caused along the Sauk River from Sauk prairie to the Skagit, many farms being cut up and fences and buildings being damaged. The Stafford and Young farms near Sauk are said to be practically ruined. The house and barn from the Young place floated past this city last Monday evening.

The local branch of the railroad was badly damaged and has been closed since the flood. East of town the long trestle is partly washed out and it will probably be some weeks before it will be repaired. Otherwise the road to Rockport is said to be open. Several long sections of track were washed out between Hamilton and Lyman and near Sedro-Woolley were washed out,

but detours have been built and it is expected that by tonight the road will be open to auto travel.

The city was without mail from Sunday evening until noon yesterday, when an auto load of mail sacks was brought here from Sedro-Woolley by Frank Goe, the stage driver, in a Ford car. He expects to be able to make daily trips from now on and will bring mail at least once each day. Conditions are much better here than after the floods of 1909 and 1917, when it was several weeks before mail was received or the roads were open for travel. There is no shortage of supplies in the city, and as roads are now about open there is not likely to be any.

There is some argument as to whether this flood was higher than that of 1909, but the general opinion seems to be that it was just as high or a few inches higher than the mark reached that year.

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January 5, 1918

CONCRETE AND THE UPPER SKAGIT VALLEY ARE ISOLATED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS RESULT OF LAST SATURDAY'S FLOOD

REPORTS COMING INTO CITY FROM OUTSIDE INDICATE GREAT DAMAGE HAD BEEN CAUSED THROUGHOUT WESTERN WASHINGTON – RAILROADS ARE DEMORALIZED AND NOTHING IS KNOWN AS TO WHEN MAIL OR TRAIN SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED

As a result of the flood of last Saturday, Concrete and all other upper Skagit valley points have been isolated from the outside world for a week and there is no definite information as yet as to when mail will be received or traffic resumed. No mail of any kind has been received in this ... since Friday evening of last week and information received by telephone and telegraph has been meager and in ...nite.

The Skagit and Baker rivers were rising rapidly at daybreak last Saturday morning and continued rising throughout the day, the waters reaching their crest at this point about 7:30 Saturday evening, when the mark was within two feet of the flood mark of 1909. Very little damage was done in Concrete. The waters surrounded the residences in East Concrete and in Crofoot's Addition, and some walks and fences were washed out but the waters did not enter any of the dwellings except the M. B. Barnhart and C. Botts cottages in Crofoot's Addition. Basements in the parts of the town mentioned were flooded and considerable inconvenience caused, but in so far as is known no one suffered any great damage.

While the water did not reach the mark of the big flood in November 1909 reports

reaching this city from up and down the valley indicate that the damage caused is much greater. Apparently the flood area covered all of Western Washington, and railway traffic along the coast has been entirely demoralized, bridges and tracks being washed out on all lines. Up until Tuesday there had not been a train out of Seattle in any direction, ... reports reaching here yesterday ... to the effect that there were two trains out of Seattle daily southbound and no railway traffic of any kind north of Everett. The Great Northern is reported to be open from Bellingham to Burlington, but further than that no definite information can be obtained. On the Rockport branch the greatest damage seems to be between Hamilton and Lyman, and between Sedro-Woolley and Burlington, the tracks being entirely washed out for a considerable distance in both cities. No information has been returned locally as to even an approximate date as to when the tracks can be reopened.

Information received as to the damage caused to property in the Skagit Valley is incomplete and indefinite, but ... certain that it will run into large figures. No word has been received ... above Sauk, but at that place the fine farms of David Fulk and William

Moran are reported to be critically ruined by the Sauk river which is said to have cut an entirely new channel. The Wainright and Young farms are also said to be badly damaged. The Sauk shingle mill also suffered heavily, but the extent of the damage there is unknown. At Van Horn Frank Mack lost his barn, with about seven tons of potatoes, hay, vegetables, etc, and all of his furniture was practically ruined, the waters reaching the eaves of his house. Jackman Creek left its bed and for a time was running through the village between the Robertson and Howard residences, but little damage was caused.

Hamilton and Burlington were entirely flooded and much damage was suffered in those towns. In Hamilton the water was from two to four feet in every business house and walks and fences are scattered to all parts of the town. The depot platform was washed away and the building damaged. No definite information has been received as to the extent of the damage in Burlington and points below. It is reported that many of the fine farms west of Burlington and Mount Vernon are practically ruined by drift and sand washed up by the Skagit.

The loss of livestock on the lower Skagit is said to have been heavy. The greatest loss reported here so far is that of Frank Eldred, a former resident of this city, who is said to have lost fifty-six head of his dairy cattle on his farm near Sterling.

The county roads in the valley were put out of business by the flood, bridges being washed out and the entire road being cut away by the waters in many places and it may be several weeks before they will be entirely opened. At Birdsvew school house the road was entirely washed out and the fence of the yard is now on the edge of the river. A new road has been cut through at this point, and the road is open from here to Hamilton, but the road from Hamilton to Lyman is impassable. From Lyman to Sedro-Woolley the road is said to be in fair shape.

Locally things could be much worse. There is plenty of provisions in the city to last until traffic is resumed. The only items reported short as yet are butter and gasoline, but efforts are being made to get in a new supply within the next few days. The greatest inconvenience caused here so far is the lack of mail communication, but arrangements will undoubtedly be made to get mail through in some way during the coming week. As reports continue to come in regarding the heavy losses suffered by other communities, the people of Concrete may consider themselves fortunate that conditions are no worse here.



Crofoot

PARCELS OWNED
BY L.E. WOLFE
1921

Sources

- 1) 1921 Real Property Tax Roll And Assessment, State Archives, Bellingham
- 2) Skagit County on-line Assessor Database
- 3) Assessor Parcel Map Section 11 Township 35 Range 08

Research conducted by
Josef Kutzler and Cuel Martin
30 MAR 08

White parcels have
April 3 research
permission.

45956 Albert Street (1912)
Blanche McManaman
1st Floor Elevation: 184.96'

45968 Albert Street (1900)
Charlie & Marinette Ripple
1st Floor Elevation: 185.44'

45940 Albert Street (1915)
Theresia Darnell
1st Floor Elevation: 185.90'

45886 Benjamin Street (1914)
Merritt & Marcie O'Bryan
1st Floor Elevation: 185.19'

45984 Albert Street (1911)
Ardys Lane
1st Floor Elevation: 185.19'

45898 Benjamin Street (1912)
Blanche McManaman
1st Floor Elevation: 185.41'

7752 South Dillard Avenue (1915)
Allen Jenkins
1st Floor Elevation: 185.37'



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